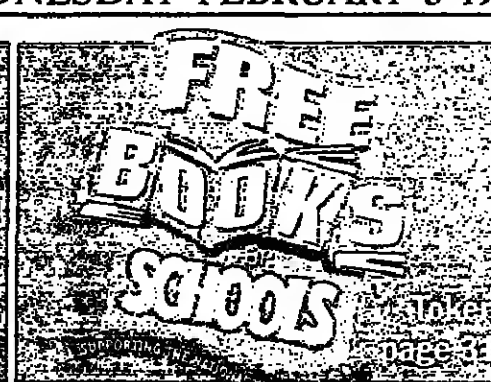


Baby panic  
Joanna Coles  
by the twitchy  
father-to-be

page 15



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## Hoddle is dismissed for 'serious error'

BY MICHAEL HARVEY AND ADRIAN LEE

GLENN HODDLE was sacked as England's football coach last night after 36 hours of frantic discussions over his suggestion that the disabled were paying for the sins of a previous life.

The FA told Hoddle that he had damaged himself and his employers by his remarks in an interview with *The Times*, and that his position had become untenable.

Hoddle later admitted that he had made a serious error of judgment that had caused pain to a number of people, for which he apologised.

The end came at 6.54pm when David Davies, the FA's acting chief executive and once Hoddle's staunchest ally, read a statement saying: "With regret, the FA and Glenn Hoddle have today agreed to terminate Glenn's contract."

"After more than 24 hours of meetings and discussions it became apparent to all those concerned that this was the right decision for English football."

"The position had become increasingly untenable for both the FA and for Glenn. He accepts he has made a serious error of judgment and, of course, has apologised."

"The past few days have been painful for everyone involved, but that is as nothing compared to any offence that may have been caused to disabled people in our community and in our country. We accept this wasn't Glenn's intention."

"It's unquestionable, though, that the controversy over whatever was or wasn't said had damaged both Glenn and his employers. The FA has rightly considered all the options over recent hours. Glenn has served the England team with dedication and with loyalty. But eventually all parties agreed that this was the correct way forward."

There was a moment of farce when two men, shouting obscenities, interrupted the reading of the statement before being wrestled to the ground by security guards. One, who said he had disabled relatives, said later: "Glenn



Hoddle leaving his agent's house in London yesterday

Simon Barnes.....6  
Leading article.....17  
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Hoddle deserves everything he got. He was completely out of order. Glenn Hoddle is a disgrace to English football."

Hoddle later read out a statement saying: "I accept that I made a serious error of judgment in an interview which caused misunderstanding and pain to a number of people. This was never my intention and for this I apologise."

"My sincere thanks for the support from loved ones, family friends and media colleagues who have worked with me over the past few days to try and establish the truth."

"My personal thanks go to all my staff, colleagues and in

particular the players, with whom I have worked over the past two years. I thank them deeply. My best wishes go to Howard Wilkinson and John Gorman, who take over for the match against France at Wembley this month."

The FA's decision was welcomed by politicians and representatives of the disabled. Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, described the sacking as "a personal tragedy" for Hoddle, but said it was the correct decision. "He is a decent man but his views caused distress to many disabled sportsmen and women," Freda Murray, chairwoman of the Disabled Supporters Association, said. "He hurt not just disabled people but their carers and families."

But Hoddle's faith healer, Eileen Drewery complained that he had been hounded from his job. She said: "It has been a complete witchhunt. There is no way, knowing the man I do, that he would ever cause distress to the disabled."

Hoddle had fought doggedly to save his £350,000-a-year job. He spoke at length to the BBC, ITN and Sky, and yesterday morning his agent was still insisting that he was the best man for the job. But despite all denials and claims that he had been misinterpreted, Hoddle was undone by 71 words that he made no attempt to explain or clarify.

In his interview, he had said: "You and I have been physically given two hands and two legs and half-decent brains. Some people have not been born like that for a reason. The karma is working from another lifetime. I have nothing to hide about that. It is not only people with disabilities. What you sow you have to reap. You have to look at things that happened in your life and ask why? It comes around."

Peter Stothard, editor of *The Times*, said last night: "It is the right decision by the FA. Both what Hoddle said and the way in which he tried to pretend that he hadn't said it made his position untenable."



"Off the record I'd like to talk to you about my football beliefs"

## Zara speaks up for her Dad

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE teenage daughter of Glenn Hoddle yesterday pleaded for an end to the "hassle" so that things could get back to normal.

Zara Hoddle, 13, wrote to BBC's *Cee-fax* saying: "I am very supportive of disabled people and so is my Dad. But I think this situation is the most pathetic reason for someone to maybe lose their job and to have so much hassle over."

"If you would just take the time to listen to what his explanation is, then maybe you would understand it a bit more. So please consider this from my Dad's point of view and hopefully everything will be back to normal soon."

Hoddle's father, Eric, of Harlow, Essex, blamed the media for his son's downfall. "The press are happy now. They have been after him from the first day he had the job."

"They have always had it in for him. I don't know what he's going to do now and I will be seeing him in the next few days to find out."

Hoddle's former wife, Anne, 40, said: "Obviously we are all very sad for Glenn, especially as he has got to face it all in the glare of publicity."

Anne, Zara's mother, said the girl had been taken back by the interest shown in her letter by the press.

She said: "I don't think she realised how much interest this would attract. She just wanted to show some support for her Dad, that's all."



Zara Hoddle: supportive



Murder victim, Kathryn Linaker, with her husband Chris and children Matthew, 2, and Holly, now four months, at the baby's christening last year

## Life for woman who killed for lust

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE amateur actress Jenny Cupit was jailed for life yesterday for bludgeoning and stabbing to death her lover's wife.

The 24-year-old mother of two changed her plea on the fifth day of her trial at Chester Crown Court and admitted murdering Kathryn Linaker, a 33-year-old deputy headmistress, at her Cheshire home last April.

Cupit, who has a history of psychiatric and emotional turmoil, wept uncontrollably as Mr Justice Sachs told her that she was a serial liar who had killed a good woman out of lust for her husband and jealousy for her. And in a clear reference to the dead woman's husband, Chris Linaker, 35, who was sitting in the public gallery, the judge added that nobody could feel anything other than utter revulsion and disgust at the lifestyle of Cupit and her circle of friends.

Cupit had started a 14-month affair with Mr Linaker, a fellow member of Warrington's Centenary Operatic and Dramatic Society, and had urged him to leave his wife and two small children and run off with her to Canada.

The court was told that Cupit and Mr Linaker, who liked to videotape their activities, had also invited his brother-in-law and her husband to join them for three-in-a-bed sex sessions.

Mrs Linaker knew nothing of her husband's adultery when Cupit arrived at her home in Penketh and attacked her with a heavy vase, a small kitchen knife she had bought that morning from Asda and a carving knife she had fetched from the kitchen drawer. She

then waited up to two hours before raising the alarm.

Cupit had originally denied murder but had pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. She changed her plea yesterday as the court was due to hear evidence of her psychological state.

Mr Justice Sachs told her: "I accept that you had problems in your life, although it is extremely difficult to believe all of what you say. In my view you are a serial liar. Your problems are no worse than hundreds of your fellow human beings who do not behave as you."

"No one hearing the evidence could fail to feel utter revulsion and disgust at your lifestyle and others of your social circle. You must face reality and not fanciful invention."

"You took the life of a blame-

less and talented young woman of 33 years. The killing was obviously premeditated. It was perpetrated in front of her four-month-old daughter. You left Kathryn Linaker's children without a mother and left your own children without a mother for at least a very, very long time."

Like Kathryn Linaker, these four children are totally innocent as to what you did. Their lives are irreversibly damaged. Goodness knows how they will react when they learn fully what you did on April 17 last year. What you did on that day was an absolute outrage. You killed a good woman out of lust for her husband and jealousy for her."

Earlier Adrian Fulford, QC, for the defence, had sought leniency for an emotionally and psychiatrically damaged young woman who had been

led into a dangerous relationship by an older man.

She had suffered a troubled psychiatric history since the early 1990s, was bulimic and had made at least one suicide attempt.

Mr Fulford also suggested that Mr Linaker should bear a heavy responsibility for what had happened. He knew she was a frightened and insecure young woman yet he had locked her into a highly dangerous relationship. "Disaster, but not necessarily this disaster, must have been foreseen on his part," Mr Fulford said.

"This defendant did truly try to get away from this relationship. He, on the other hand, never, ever took steps to persuade her to go away. Quite the contrary. He degraded her. He used her and he, to a very important extent, has brought this young woman to this sad pass."

Mr Linaker declined to comment as he left the court.

Jealous rival, page 3



Jenny Cupit is led from court after being jailed for life

## Nanny spared jail over baby

Louise Sullivan, 27, the Australian nanny who shook a six-month-old baby to death, was freed to return to Sydney after a judge ruled that she needed treatment for the mental deficiencies that contributed to the death of Caroline Jongen last April. Page 9

## Kosovo talks

The Kosovo Liberation Army said that it would attend the peace conference planned to start in Rambouillet, outside Paris, on Saturday, putting pressure on Belgrade to follow suit. The KLA negotiators will be named today. Page 11

## Byers pledge to help bankrupts start over

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Trade and Industry Secretary, Stephen Byers, last night promised bankruptcy laws which were more "enterprise friendly", saying wealth creation was more important than wealth redistribution.

Mr Byers used his first main speech since he succeeded Peter Mandelson to argue that helping businesses was compatible with social justice. He announced a working group to look at changes making it easier for "responsible

risk takers" whose businesses had failed to start up again.

Speaking at the Lord Mayor's dinner at the Mansion House, Mr Byers said that current bankruptcy laws made no distinction between the risk taker who worked hard but was unsuccessful and "individuals who deliberately set out to cheat their creditors or abuse limited liability". It was important to come down hard on those who exploited the system, he added.

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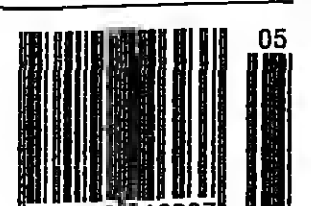
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# 'Least said, soonest mended' is Labour's motto of the hour

Cynics may sneer that the Government's new presentation strategy means that ministers will only speak to us from Richard and Judy's sofa.

They are wrong. There will be statements in the House too — whenever there is nothing to say.

There was little to say about health yesterday, except on the Government's controversial public sector pay awards. On these, therefore, no statement.

Instead, the Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, came to tell MPs about progress on

an uncontroversial scheme. NHS Direct, about which there is no news, except that it proceeds.

It aims to provide a telephone service for citizens anxious about their health. Presumably callers will be told to calm down, take a couple of aspirins and on no account bother a doctor.

This was a curtain-raiser to the string of soothing Commons statements now in store: we might call it Government Direct. MPs will be offered a dispatch box aspirin.

So you might as well get used to reports like this

they are the parliamentary future.

Frank Dobson described NHS Direct and told the House that the scheme was being introduced gradually and was going well.

Alan Duncan, Tory spokesman, reminded MPs that it was a Tory idea, and welcomed it.

David Hinchliffe (Lab, Wakefield) welcomed it twice. Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, welcomed it.

Kali Mounford (Lab, Colne Valley) offered the Government her congratulations.



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

Stephen Dorrell (C, Charnwood) welcomed the news. Anne Begg (Lab, Aberdeen S) welcomed the news.

The Rev Martin Smyth (UUP, Belfast S) welcomed the news.

Kevin Barron (Lab, Rother Valley) praised the scheme, offering it a warm welcome.

John Bercow (C, Buckingham) welcomed it. Evan Harris (Lib Dem, Ox-

ford W & Abingdon) congratulated the Government.

Phyllis Starkey (Lab, Milton Keynes SW) welcomed the news.

But enough, Dobson himself said it all when, greeted by an "Ah!" from the opposition benches, he asked Madam Speaker whether she remembered "as a lass" the doctor's instructions to "open your mouth and say 'Ah!'".

"Too long ago," said Betty, sadly. Not so, Dr New Labour was asking MPs to open their mouths and say "Ah". And they did.

But at Points of Order, John Maples, Tory Defence spokesman, was disinclined to say "Ah". He protested that ministers now refuse to explain their travel expenses. Madam Speaker said there was nothing she could do.

Half an hour later, Sir Edward Heath, too, was declining to say Ah. Debating the Government's proposals for constitutional reform, he accused Tony Blair of pursuing

a strategy to turn the Commons by stealth into "a daytime occupation" — ruling out those with outside interests. They wanted to create "a mass of stooges," grunted Sir Edward. "They want to cast us off."

John Major agreed. He accused the Government of contempt for dissent. Half the week, now, he said, Parliament had become "derelict, powerless, pointless and empty". "Liberty needs protection from democracy."

A leading member of Labour's awkward squad, Andrew Mackinlay (Thurrock)

remained unwilling to let the Ahs have it. He interrupted Peter Mandelson (speaking with poise from the back benches). Under the Government's proposals, he asked, "how would you get loose cannons, the bloody-minded, the awkward, the irritants" into an Upper Chamber?

You could the Mandelson brain whirr. "And out from under my feet," he thought. "I entirely agree," he told Mackinlay. "The bloody-minded should have their place in the Lords."

Lord Mackinlay of Thurrock? Ah!

## Doctor wants birth control given in school

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING gynaecologist was yesterday criticised after he suggested that teenage girls be fitted with a new device that will stop them having a baby for three years.

John Guillebaud, medical director of the Margaret Pyke Family Planning Centre in London, said the girls could be fitted with the device at the same time as they were given their rubella vaccination.

"In the future, and as a social policy, when you have an area with a huge rate of teenage pregnancies you could go into a school, obviously with the consent of the parents, and fit this device so that everybody would start out not being able to have a baby," he said.

The device is an Implanon, manufactured by the Dutch company Organon, which was given its European licence just before Christmas. It is a tiny rod, fitted under the skin of the arm, which secretes a hormone that prevents pregnancy. It can be removed if the woman decides she wants to become pregnant.

Professor Guillebaud said the fact that the device was "forgettable" made it ideal for use by young women who tended not to remember to take the Pill and who did not

want to be fitted with a coil. Girls are given their German measles vaccination when they are around 12 or 13, and Professor Guillebaud said this could be an opportunity to fit the Implanon rod.

Alison Hadley, national policy officer of the Brook Advisory Bureau, the main advisory bureau on sexual matters for teenagers, said: "This approach is open to eugenics. We don't want a scenario where girls are fitted with these things just because they have a tendency to get pregnant."

"To do that would be disrespectful to them and it ignores the fact that these devices give no protection against sexually-transmitted disease."

"The correct approach to this is to be open with the girls, discuss the question of sex properly with them and give them the fullest education on the subject. These devices should only be used after the fullest discussion with the girl. Young people need to take a positive attitude to sex, not a negative or passive one."

Ann Weyman, chief executive of the Family Planning Association, was also critical of Professor Guillebaud's ideas. "It is more a question of young women having the self-confi-

dence to take control of their lives and make responsible decisions about relationships," she said. "Contraception has to be viewed within this broader context."

Valerie Riches, deputy director of the pressure group Family Youth Concern, said: "I think the whole idea is repugnant. It will give youngsters the go-ahead to engage in sexual intercourse at an even earlier age and will make them more vulnerable to exploitation. It will not protect them from sexually-transmitted diseases and could be very destructive to later relationships. I find the concept alarming."

Yvonne Stait, of the pressure group Concern for Family and Womanhood said: "To have a hormone implanted into your daughters at the same time as a rubella jab seems absolutely abhorrent. It is very much more important that girls and boys are taught about not having sex outside marriage than how to have sex before they are even over the age of consent."

Professor Guillebaud has been a consistent advocate of new methods of contraception and has often been outspoken on the need to prevent young girls becoming pregnant.

## Rival says Sarwar tried to buy lies

THE Labour MP Mohammed Sarwar offered to give a political rival £5,000 if he would swear a false statement before lawyers, a court was told yesterday.

The MP held up five fingers as he tried to persuade Badar Islam to swear on oath that another candidate was to blame for voter registration irregularities, it was alleged at the High Court in Edinburgh.

Mr Islam said that the "angry" MP had made the offer after newspaper stories appeared a few weeks after the general election about campaign irregularities in Glasgow Govan.

Mr Islam, who stood as an Independent Labour candidate, said that about two weeks earlier Mr Sarwar had told him "I will do something for you" if Mr Islam pulled out of the campaign.

Mr Sarwar, 46, of Glasgow, denies two charges of attempting to pervert the course of justice, fraud relating to the addition of four names on the electoral register, and understating election expenses.

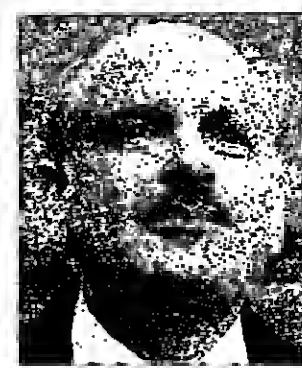
Mr Islam, 49, a former professional cricketer and twice-bankrupted businessman, said that Mr Sarwar first asked him to drop his independent campaign when they met at Glasgow Airport a week before the election. At a second meeting, he said, Mr Sarwar again asked him to cease off electioneering. Mr Islam said that he felt he would



Badar Islam alleges that he was offered £5,000 by Mohammed Sarwar, below

benefit if he did as Mr Sarwar asked, but instead stepped up his campaign. He said that after the election, Mr Sarwar persuaded him to make a false statement, to be used within the Labour Party, blaming the candidate Peter Paton for voter registration irregularities and saying that Mr Sarwar had nothing to do with it.

Mr Islam said in court that he did so because Mr Sarwar was the first Muslim MP, but soon after Mr Sarwar asked



## Inmate seizes officer

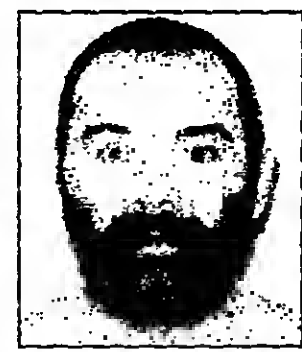
By PAUL WILKINSON

A MAN dubbed Britain's most dangerous prisoner was last night holding a prison officer hostage inside a special unit for troublesome inmates.

Charles Bronson, 45, an 18-stone body-builder, has spent 25 years in jail for violent offences: 21 of them have been in solitary confinement. During that time he has attacked 25 prison officers and been involved in 10 sieges.

The latest started on Monday afternoon in the close supervision centre in Hull prison. The unit, which accommodates up to 10 prisoners in separate cells, is one of four in England and Wales for controlling inmates with disruptive reputations.

A Prison Service spokesman



Bronson: an 18-stone body builder

said yesterday that there was an "on-going" incident involving a prisoner and a member of staff in the Hull unit. "Staff are talking to the prisoner in an attempt to resolve the situation," he said. "The incident is

confined to the CRC and the rest of the prison is calm and operating normally."

Bronson, who changed his name from Michael Peterson to that of the star of the *Death Wish* series of films, was originally jailed in 1974 for eight years for firearms offences. His sentence has regularly been extended for violence, assault and kidnapping other inmates. He earned the nickname Cannibal after threatening to eat some of the prisoners he took captive during a siege in 1996 at Bellingham jail in South London.

He has taken hostages twice before. In 1994 he briefly held Hull's deputy governor, Adrian Wallace, threatening to break his neck if his demands were not met; in 1993 he held a librarian captive for 14 hours.

## Doctors attack 'false' pay scale

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS' leaders yesterday accused the Government of "massaging" the figures on their new pay scales to give a misleading impression that they were earning far more than they actually are.

The pay scales, published in *The Times*, were taken from the Health Department's press release on the settlement, which was worth 3.5 per cent for most doctors. The rates shown, however, were only for the very maximum rates that doctors in the different grades could earn and then only after being paid maximum overtime.

The rates given for the most junior house officer grade showed that they were earning £25,512 at present and that this would rise to £26,405 from next April. In fact the basic salary rate for the grade is only £16,145 at present and this will rise to £16,710.

Andrew Hnhart, chairman of the British Medical Association's junior doctors' committee, said: "This manipulation of the figures is cynical and exploitative. Junior doctors saw pay figures flashing up on in TV screens which they just did not recognise and the mistake

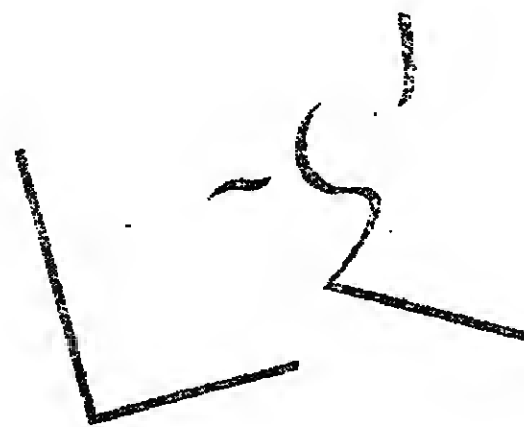
is repeated all over the newspapers."

The tables are based on the maximum earning figures for a 73-hour working week, but junior doctors only get paid half the normal hourly rate for working compulsory overtime at weekends, nights and on holidays. The tables for senior grades were also for the maximum possible rates. This put the consultant scale at £61,065, when the starting rate for the grade is £47,345.

The BMA says that there are two reasons for the Government issuing only the maximum consultant level. Consultants at the top of the scale get an extra £500 which takes their award to 4.3 per cent, and the second is "they want to inflate consultant salaries for public relations purposes".

The new basic pay scales from April 1 are a minimum of £16,710 and a maximum of £18,860 for a house officer; £20,945-£27,945 senior house officer; £26,840-£33,965 senior registrar; £23,300-£33,965 specialist registrar; £47,345-£61,065 consultant; and £64,605-£73,925 for distinction awards.

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# 'We simply cannot understand how any human being could do this to another'



Kathryn Linaker's twin sister Fiona and parents Sheila and Ken Pearson at a press conference yesterday

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE parents of Kathryn Linaker spoke last night of their struggle to understand why their daughter was savagely murdered after she had apparently found happiness in her family and her career.

Mrs Linaker's father Ken Pearson, 65, and his wife Sheila, who live in Rainhill, Merseyside, spoke movingly of Kathryn, 33, shortly after they watched Jenny Cupit start a life sentence for her murder.

They described their daughter as a wonderful mother of Matthew, who was two years old, and Holly, only four months, when she was killed last April.

Talented and beautiful, Mrs Linaker was combining motherhood with a blossoming career as a teacher and an author. She was hoping that her acting deputy headship at St James's Primary School, Haydock, would be confirmed. She had written resource information books for teachers and two series of work-books for nursery children.

Mr Pearson, who had followed every day of the trial from the public gallery, said: "It [the trial] showed that Kathy was blameless and was, in fact, the innocent victim of this whole tragic situation."

"As far as Jenny Cupit is concerned, we simply cannot understand how any one human being could do this to another, and particularly someone who would want to help. We certainly do not feel anger and we

## Parents say they feel no hatred for their daughter's killer

### THE FAMILY

do not feel hatred. We simply cannot relate to someone who behaves in this manner."

Mr and Mrs Pearson and Kathryn's twin sister Fiona are anxious not to upset the delicate family balance. They refuse to talk about Kathryn's husband Chris, who was exposed in court as a philandering adulterer.

Mr Pearson said: "After the tragedy, Chris and the children went to live with his parents." They explained that Mrs Linaker had worked full-time "and the pattern of child care was well established. Two days a week the children were with us, one day with Chris's parents, and two days in the nursery."

"Chris has endeavoured to maintain this. With love and affection, I am sure that he has helped them through this time."

Mrs Pearson said that they had felt compelled to attend the trial each day, despite having to steel themselves to the horror. "We had to know the truth so that we could both learn to live with it and eventu-

ally hope perhaps to understand why it happened. Also, because we were not with Kathryn when she died, we wanted to reassure ourselves that she was unconscious for most of this vicious attack and she would not have been aware of what was happening."

The family said that they wanted to convey Kathryn's many qualities as a wife, a



Kathryn Linaker on her graduation day

mother, a teacher, a musician and "as a person", which was why they had spoken publicly.

Meanwhile, the family hope to take an active role in the children's upbringing. Matthew, said Mrs Pearson, is at a delightful and inquisitive age where he can take joy from simple things, like a trip to the library or to feed the ducks in the park. "All the things that children do," said Mrs Pearson. "It helped us over the last few months to be able to do that with him."

When Kathryn died, said Mr Pearson, the children at her school wrote many letters to them full of affection for their missing teacher.

"It would come out that she was always smiling, always happy, always prepared to play little games with them," said Mr Pearson. "She was just that kind of person."

Mrs Pearson said she would remember how her daughter would return from work, pop her head round the door and happily call out "hello". Matthew would come running to her and give her a big hug.

Kathryn's twin sister Fiona Gent, an accountant, said: "I most miss her sense of humour. She had a knack of finding the funny side and she adored my children. She spent hours chasing them around the garden. She was just one of those people who could relate to adults and children."

"She was a beautiful woman and a loving person. She will remain in the hearts of everyone who knew her."



Jenny Cupit, who yesterday admitted murdering Kathryn Linaker, is led away from Chester Crown Court

## Jealous rival finally took centre stage in tragedy

JENNY CUPIT always coveted one of the big parts in the shows put on by the Century Operatic and Dramatic Society.

She watched enviously from the chorus line in *The Sound of Music*, *Camelot*, *Broadway Nights*, *The King and I* and *Annie* as others took the applause. One of the leading actresses was Kathryn Linaker, the wife of her lover.

It was the beginning of a consuming jealousy that led to Mrs Linaker's murder in a ferocious assault.

Like Cupit, Kathryn Linaker, 33, was a member of the circle whose social life revolved around the local drama society in Warrington, Cheshire, with its theatrical passions, crises and scandals. Outwardly, the two women, and their husbands, became a firm foursome. However, in social class and emotions, they were very different.

The drama group, which once featured Sporty Spice among its members, is a well respected society that was launched in the early 1900s by workers at the town's Crossfield factory. After rehearsals, the aspiring actors and actresses would relax and enjoy a drink at the nearby Bowling Green Hotel.

Cupit, a hairdresser, was insecure, obsessed about her appearance and desperate to be the centre of attention. She also had a dual personality: she could be bubbly, outgoing and the life and soul of the

### THE KILLER

party; at other times, and for long periods, she appeared moody, withdrawn and prone to irrational emotional outbursts. Whatever her mood, she liked to flutter around men, flirting with them outrageously.

Members of the dramatic society said she was always anxious to move to centre stage from her habitual place as a chorus line dancer. She once threw a tantrum when she failed to win a part.

Jenny Cupit was born Jennifer Lythgoe and grew up in modest circumstances in Warrington. She had an undistinguished academic record at Appleton High School. She was said to have been desperately upset by the break-up of her parents, Paul, a fire safety officer, and Sheila.

She was in her teens when she joined a dance troupe in Warrington run by Nick Cupit. She moved in with him and they already had an 11-month-old daughter, Laura, when they married at St Andrew's Church, Orford. She was 19.

They lived in a £40-a-week council house, struggling to make ends meet on Mr Cupit's modest salary as a computer sales administrator. She was trying to start up a mobile hairdressing business.

After the birth of their second child, the marriage foundered. Cupit later told po-

lice during interviews that her husband had wanted an "open marriage" so that each could pursue other relationships. He had urged her to go to clubs where they could meet like-minded couples.

Sally Alcock, Mrs Linaker's sister-in-law, said that society members thought of Cupit, 24, as a woman with deep-seated psychological problems. Barbara Cupit, her mother-in-law, said: "She was two people. She became a very different girl. I don't know her anymore."

Her moods worsened after the birth of her second baby, Benjamin, in June 1995, when she developed bulimia. She would faint during rehearsals, ensuring that she became the centre of attention.

When her jealousy finally overwhelmed her, Cupit ambushed Mrs Linaker at her home. In a rage, she beat her over the head with a vase. As the stricken woman collapsed into the lounge, Cupit stabbed her in the back with a Kitchen Devil knife in a blow that may have paralysed her. Then, leaving bloody footprints on the carpet, she went to the kitchen for a carving knife, which she plunged at least three times into her victim's stomach.

Cupit watched Mrs Linaker die and then waited up to two hours before calling her in-laws to tell them: "Kathy's dead." They found her standing in the hallway comforting the dead woman's baby with a bottle of milk.

## Husband told that he shares the blame

### THE MEN

AS CHRIS LINAKER sat in the public gallery watching his former lover being sent to jail for life, he also heard scathing criticism of his own role in his wife's death.

The slightly round, unremarkable figure was shunned by his wife's family, who were sitting nearby. Mr Linaker emerges from the court case as a philanderer who betrayed his talented and innocent wife.

He pursued a younger, volatile lover for his own sexual gratification, playing a leading role in the drama that led to his wife's murder. He was still seeking sex from Jenny



Mr Linaker, left, Mr Cupit and Mr Alcock all used Jenny Cupit to live out sex fantasies



Cupit — by then an unstable, desperate woman begging him to leave his wife and family — in a car park on the day before her murder.

Cupit's lawyer, Adrian Fulford, QC, said that Mr Linaker had known that Cupit was a frightened and insecure young woman and yet had "locked her into a highly dangerous relationship".

He added: "He degraded her. He used her and he, to a very important extent, has brought this young woman to this sad pass."

Mr Linaker, 35, has lost his

wife, his reputation and his job and has been forced to sell his house in Warrington. The couple who bought it asked a priest to bless the property before moving in.

Mr Linaker, the court was told, had a penchant for pornographic videos, which he swapped with his brother-in-law, Neil Alcock, another mainstay of the drama society.

It was to Mr Alcock, 34, that Mr Linaker turned to when he wanted to set up a three-in-a-bed session with himself and Jenny Cupit. Mr Alcock, a balding figure, agreed — "stu-

pidly", as he put it later. They filmed themselves having sex in the back bedroom of the Linakers' house, and the men later sat together as they replayed the tape.

Nick Cupit, 27, Jenny Cupit's husband, was never seen in court, yet he was not an innocent party, said Alex Carlile, QC, for the prosecution. Mr Cupit, a sales administrator, was persuaded by his wife to take part in a three-in-a-bed session with her and Mr Linaker. He even suggested to his wife that she and her lover start before him.

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APR 1999%







# His faith let him make his own rules

WE ARE supposed to live in a secular age, but Glenn Hoddle stands as living proof that religion is still one of the most dangerous things in life. He becomes the first person to lose his position in public life on a point of theology since Archbishop Cranmer — but at least Hoddle has escaped burnings.

"I go to church on Sundays," Hoddle wrote in one of the volumes of his ghosted oeuvre, *Spurred to Success*. "But I don't feel as though I have to go to church every single Sunday — I would be letting myself and my faith down."

**Glenn Hoddle's belief in his own infallibility led to his demise, says Simon Barnes**



Understand by the term, but the courage to draw all eyes to himself: to risk the humiliating error in pursuit of victory and glory. Criticised as a Fancy Dan footballer, Hoddle was in fact as hard-nosed an individual as you can find on a football field. His hardness was all mental. But his gifts were regarded with suspicion as well as awe, and he went into management with the sour taste of frustration in his mouth. The trouble with team games is that an individual is not in control of his destiny. Now it was time to seize that control.

It was reckoned that Hoddle's greatest achievement as Swindon Town manager was to pick himself, and as manager of Chelsea, to pick Ruud Gullit. Not the whole truth: Hoddle gave both his club sides a sense of his own self-belief. Hoddle believed he was destined for greatness; therefore his teams must have a touch of greatness. And to an extent, they did. Football management is about the art of belief.

The self-belief to think he could pull it off. It is a law of sports: every person who takes on the job of England coach or manager ends up standing before the world exactly as he is. The scoundrel and the fool that hide within are invariably revealed for us, along with the liar, the fudger, the prevaricator, the phoney, the weasel and the plain inadequate. Hoddle seemed to have the toughness to cope. And yes, he had his moment of infallibility. His England team sealed the question of qualification to the World Cup finals with a tactically brilliant draw in Italy: a unified team, playing to a clear and correct strategy.

Drewery won his awe and respect by sorting out a troubled hamstring by the power of prayer. It was a defining experience. This unholy marriage of — to use the term loosely — minds gave Hoddle's life direction, energy, purpose, meaning, and reality. It made him infallible. It led him to the disaster he now finds himself in. The presence of Drewery in the England camp was helpful to some players. But not all. And the vital importance of Drewery to Hoddle himself was utterly divisive.

Perhaps it is about time we talked about football, because, strange to say, football does play a part in this bizarre story. So why did Hoddle go out of his way to criticise Michael Owen before the World Cup? Owen had obvious talent and a precociously mature temperament. "Not a natural goalscorer," Hoddle said. Hoddle took again: and there was something almost wilfully self-destructive in Hoddle's stance. The fundamental error of the World Cup campaign was not the defeat by Argentina, but the defeat by Romania.

Teddy Sheringham, preferred to Owen, contributed little. Owen came on as a late substitute to score a spectacular goal. Too late, too late: had England won, they would have met an easier team than Argentina in the round of 16. Two things happened to Hoddle in the wake of the tournament. One, he had acquired a reverse Midas touch: everything he touched was turning to ordure. Second, he believed more strongly than ever in his own infallibility. Something was going to break: and soon. That much was clear.

The first colossal mistake was Hoddle's World Cup diary. He made a fortune by making public his private dealings with players. He should have been sacked for that book: but it was done, shamefully, with the connivance of the Football Association, and with an FA employee as Hoddle's personal ghost. But all trust between Hoddle and his squad was at an end, with the combination



Glenn Hoddle leaving the home of his agent Dennis Roach on his way to the FA press conference yesterday

of the book and the quasi-compulsory faith-healer. This was made clear by the poor results achieved since England set out to qualify for the European championships — defeat by Sweden, draw at home to Bulgaria. If scandal didn't get him, then football would. But Hoddle remained infallible. And the thing about the doctrine of infallibility is that it has a central design flaw. It involves an abandonment of objective reality. This is a problem in the pragmatic matter of trying to win football matches. And it is a greater problem when you try and communicate with people outside your immediate area of control.

Hoddle, believing in the things he made up, had forgotten that the rest of the world might find problems with them. Hence the statement about the second-class nature of the souls of the disabled: and the extraordinary nationwide rejection of these views. It was a shockwave of powerful emotion and Hoddle was overwhelmed by it. Religion, as I said, is dangerous stuff: even in a secular age. It has done for Hoddle all right. Football, like religion, is dangerous. After all, 26 million people watched the England-

Argentina match. Football is part of people's pleasures, part of people's lives. Football is trivial, of course it is trivial: but people care about it. It matters. And so football empowers otherwise small and unimportant people. And there is only one thing in the world more dangerous than religion. And that is power.

Leading article, page 17

**'After the World Cup he acquired a reverse Midas touch: everything he touched was turning to ordure'**

## Blair swayed by mob, says Major



Major: accused Blair of hunting for headlines

BY ROLAND WATSON  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR accused Tony Blair yesterday of exploiting the Hoddle affair in search of headlines. The Prime Minister had been driven by a "mob mentality".

Hours after Downing Street had tried to make an ungainly retreat from the episode, Mr Major said that Mr Blair's heavy hint on Monday that Hoddle should go revealed a government appetite for homing in on populist targets.

Addressing the House of Commons in a debate on the future of the Lords, Mr Major said: "It does not matter whether that target may be the unpopular principle of hereditary peers or the dotty ramblings of a football coach."

"If there's a mob mentality, then this Government will put itself at the head of that mentality to garner a headline or two."

Downing Street said that Mr Blair had not called for Hoddle to go, 24 hours after he appeared to do precisely that. An official said that No 10 had telephoned Hoddle on Monday to try to calm the waters and to lift the impression of pressure from the top on the Football Association.

Downing Street refused to say whether the telephone call came from Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's official spokesman. But together with yesterday's attempted clarification from No 10, it amounted to a concerted effort to remove Mr Blair's fingerprints from last night's decision.

Downing Street said officials had acted to ensure Hoddle was aware of the "full context" of Mr Blair's words.

The Prime Minister was drawn into the Hoddle debate when he appeared on Granada TV's *This Morning* programme on Monday. Asked by Richard Madeley whether he thought it was time for Hoddle to step down, Mr Blair said: "If he has really said it in the way that he has been reported to have said it, it is very offensive and it is difficult for him to stay in those circumstances, yes."

Downing Street pointed out that Mr Blair qualified his view four times with the rider that Hoddle's explanation of his comments had to be heard first. Mr Blair reiterated this yesterday when questioned by reporters after meeting business leaders in South Wales. "The real issue is whether what the newspaper reported is an accurate representation of what was said and what was meant," he said.

Peter Ainsworth, the Shadow Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, said: "The Prime Minister's intervention has simply confused matters. They seem to be getting in a muddle over this, and it is not now clear what the Prime Minister really meant."

## Sponsors believe FA made right decision

BY ADAM SHERWIN  
AND STEVE FARRELL

GLENN HODDLE's removal as England coach was welcomed last night by critics and disabled groups.

Mike Lazenby, marketing director for the Nationwide Building Society, the England team's sponsor, said: "The FA have made the right decision. As a sponsor we were obliged to disassociate ourselves from unacceptable views which caused distress to our members."

"We wanted to help football clean up its act and this episode shows where the boundaries lie."

The British Paralympic Association also backed the FA decision. "I think it would have been difficult for him to continue, but it had to be a footballing decision," a spokeswoman said. "We have been in contact with a lot of our athletes. Some of them are angry but the majority just shrugged it off with a bit of a smile."

However, the Labour peer Lord Ashley, who was deal for some 25 years, said: "An aggressive media, a weak Football Association and his own lack of judgment have finished Glenn Hoddle. But it is a sad day for British tolerance and freedom of speech."

Peter Ainsworth, the shadow culture, media and sport secretary, said: "I entirely respect the decision of the FA, who have no doubt come to their conclusion on the basis of what they believe to be right for the sport."

John Maxton, a Labour member of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, said: "I think Hoddle had no option but to resign. His statements were unacceptable."

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# Yemen hostages freed with gifts and apologies

FROM DANIEL MCGRORY IN ADEN

TWO Britons held hostage in Yemen for 15 days were released yesterday, after receiving apologies and gifts from their kidnappers.

Eddie and Mary Rosser, and a Dutch family abducted with them, were released into the safekeeping of the tribal sheikh who was reportedly behind their abduction.

Before being driven from a mountain hideout, they were showered with gifts including an ornate antique bolt-action rifle by the tribesmen who abducted them. They were taken to Sheikh Abdul Aziz al-Shaif's villa in the capital, Sanaa, where he offered profuse apologies and invited the captives to share a traditional breakfast with his neighbours and scores of others.

The Rossers hope to stay in Yemen to complete their six-month contract for a charity.

Mr Rosser, 61, said: "We bear no grudges to our captors. We never felt in danger from them and they never stopped apologising for taking us. There were some very nice guys among them and we made some good relationships, so we don't want to see them punished and we don't want to leave this country."

His wife, 64, was still wearing tribal dress given to her by the sheikh. "It sounds strange to some but these gifts are very personal to us; they were well meant and we shall keep them as memories," Mr Rosser said.

The couple, who ran a guest-house for aid workers for the charity Worldwide Services, were kidnapped with two Dutch colleagues and their two young children. On their first night in captivity the gunmen told Mrs Rosser and the

Dutch woman that they could leave with the children, but they refused to go without their husbands.

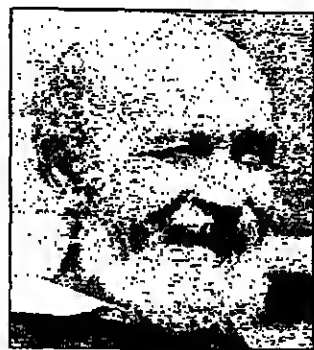
Over dinner, the tribesmen explained that the hostages were only a consolation prize, because a more ambitious kidnap had been planned. "They told us that they had set off for Sanaa with the intention of capturing someone from the American Embassy but didn't manage it and were coming home empty-handed when they bumped into us."

After 15 days in captivity, the Rossers were woken by a tribesman in the early hours and told that they were going back to Sanaa. They were handed over to the British Ambassador, Vic Henderson, and his Dutch counterpart.

Mr Rosser, from Lechlade, Gloucestershire, said: "The first thing we did was speak to our children, Paul and Penny. We want to talk to them about what we do next, but we both would love to see our contract. It is a lovely country and we love the Yemeni people."

Tribesmen said that the Yemen Government had paid £30,000 for the release. The Foreign Office and Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs denied knowledge of a ransom.

Tony Blair welcomed the release. "Given recent events, we should consider ourselves very fortunate it has had a good ending," he said.



Eddie and Mary Rosser: hoping to stay in Yemen



## Boy's body found in canal

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE body of a teenage rugby player who had been missing for four days was discovered in a canal yesterday.

George Mortimer's body was found in reed beds a few hundred yards from his home in Exeter.

George, 16, was last seen on Friday when he told a friend he was meeting two men by the River Exe, which runs

alongside the canal. His body was taken to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital for a post-mortem examination by a Home Office pathologist.

The body was discovered after 50 police officers, believed to be acting on a tip-off, resumed their search of the Exe and the Exeter ship canal.

George's parents, Barry, a self-employed businessman, his wife Alice, and older brother Sam were being comforted

at their home by specially trained police.

The 6ft 1in teenager, who was captain of Exeter Rugby club under-16 team, was last seen at his home at 5pm on Friday. He had been due to visit a friend but did not arrive.

Last night police, who have launched a murder inquiry, were questioning two men from Altrincham, Cheshire, arrested on Monday. One is 32, the other is in his twenties.



"I expect to get money, fame and fortune": Alara Gee, left, under the camera lights yesterday with her fellow pupil Katie Allison

## Model students capitalise on lessons

BY PAUL WILKINSON

TEENAGERS at a comprehensive school who set up a modelling agency as part of their business studies are to relaunch it as a commercial venture. They have recruited fellow pupils — girls and boys — as models.

Sixteen-year-old Alara Gee has already completed several professional assignments, including a shoot for the Halifax Bank magazine and a portfolio using Max Foundation produced by Harvey Nichols, the fashion store. She said: "The work is great fun. It is definitely a good start for a teenager. I expect to get money, fame and fortune."

The students at Boston Spa Comprehensive School in West Yorkshire call their business Premier Snakers, after the models' wiggle on the catwalk. They were expected to create and run an imaginary firm for their advanced business studies course but decided that only the real thing would do.

They raised launch capital of £70 and set up the company under the Young Enterprise scheme. They planned to liquidate it after the sum-



Alex Simmons, centre, presents his co-members of Premier Snakers

mer firm but will now relaunch it immediately afterwards as a continuing business. Premier Snakers has yet to make a profit but its founders expect that to change after the relaunch. They have 26 models on their books, aged 16 to 18, who were selected by

their classmates. The 11 girls and 15 boys have had a portfolio of photos taken by Ross Featherstone, 16. They will appear in a calendar being created to win outside work and next month will take part in their own fashion show. Sponsors are being sought

for the calendar and part of its profits will go to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

John Cuthell, the school's business course co-ordinator, said it was the first time that he had known business students to set up a modelling agency.

Alex Simmons, 16, of Leeds, the joint managing director, said: "We wanted to do something a bit different. A modelling agency seemed perfect. What we're really excited about is that it gives us the chance to carry things on after school. I have always wanted to be successful in everything I do. I am a very bad loser."

Lee Hicken, 17, the other joint MD, said he believed that the agency was the first of its kind. "We just saw a lot of really nice people around school who we thought would make it as models. I just thought of all this talent going to waste and we decided to do something about it."

Lee Hawkins, 16, from Collingham, West Yorkshire, said that he had no qualms about posing for the camera. "Giving it a go in front of your friends must be less nerve-racking than modelling for a lot of strangers."

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## New-look Lords 'to hold UK together'

PETER MANDELSON last night re-entered the political fray with a passionate speech from the back benches on Lords reform (James Landale writes).

The former Trade and Industry Secretary said a reformed second chamber should be used as a "glue" to hold together the constitution in the wake of devolution. He also claimed to have been the minister behind the Government's plan for a royal commission.

In the second day of debate on the Government's Bill to expel hereditary peers, two former Tory Prime Ministers also made rare speeches, both warning of the Government's contempt for Parliament's check over the executive.

Sir Edward Heath broke ranks with his front bench and called for an elected Upper House. John Major warned of the Government's complete uncertainty of what to do once the hereditaries were gone.

Mr Mandelson suggested that the new Lords could contain representatives of the regions and could have improved links with Europe, but warned against giving it new powers.

## MP accuses Irvine of legal work 'cronyism'

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD IRVINE of Lairg was last night accused of further "cronyism" after it emerged that the bulk of legal work that he has commissioned as Lord Chancellor has gone to his former set of chambers.

Since May 1997 the Government has paid £36,687 to Lord Irvine's former Chambers, 11 King's Bench Walk, much more than to other barristers in other London chambers.

A parliamentary answer by Geoff Hoon, the Minister of State in the Lord Chancellor's Department, shows that 24 sets of chambers have been used for work since Lord Irvine was appointed to the Cabinet. Most of the firms have done small amounts of work but £31,531 has been paid to Temple Gardens, £20,180 to 29 Essex Street and £23,735 to Queen Elizabeth Building.

David Ruffley, the Tory MP for Barry St Edmonds who tabled the question, said the large sums going to 11 King's Bench Walk was further evidence of "cronyism".

"It is an amazing coincidence that Lord Irvine's former set of chambers gets more work for his department

than any other chambers in London," Mr Ruffley said. "It's a clear case of Irvine's cronies."

But the Lord Chancellor's department pointed out that the Treasury Junior, or "Treasury Devil", appointed 12 months ago, works at 11 King's Bench Walk so he would be bound to carry out most of the work. The appointment of Philip Sales provoked protests at the time. The Treasury Devil is an independent barrister who is briefed and paid for advice or court appearances on behalf of government departments.

Last December Lord Falconer of Thoroton, then Solicitor-General, said the appointment had been made on merit. Mr Sales, 36, was a young appointment but highly rated and already tipped for stardom as "Lord Irvine's blue-eyed boy".

The Lord Chancellor's Department was unable to provide a breakdown as to how much work had been done by Mr Sales and how much had been done by other barristers at 11 King's Bench Walk, saying "we are confident that the figure for 11 King's Bench Walk reflects his role".



Tony Blair kissing a woman on the cheek during a walkabout with Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, outside their hotel in Bristol yesterday

## Flawed confessions of talkshow politician

TONY BLAIR wants to be the People's Prime Minister. As he told *This Morning* on Monday: "I think it is a good idea for people in my position to try to communicate with people directly and talk about things that really interest people."

The People's Prime Minister, as interpreted by those masters of daytime television, ranged from Mr Blair's relations with his children and whether he is bossy at home, to the future of the England football manager. But those who live by populism are liable to be tripped

up by it. The political strategy is clear. Working-class women who form the core viewers of such shows are among the strongest supporters of Labour. According to the MORI polls for *The Times*, some 62 per cent of them back Labour, against 43 per cent of middle-class women. (This is based on aggregate data for October to December of last year.) Moreover, support for Labour is highest among the key target groups of 18-to-24 and 25-to-34-year-old women, at 75 and 68 per cent respectively. Labour devoted considerable



Peter Riddell

ON POLITICS

efforts before the election to court these groups, a fifth or less of whom back the Tories. Party strategists found that they could not reach them by newspapers or current affairs television. Hence, the recourse to the time-green channels.

Contrary to the snuffy comment of the past two days, there is nothing wrong in trying to communicate more directly with the public. Despite our high level of newspaper readership compared with other countries, the fragmentation of the television market means that politicians can no longer assume that almost everybody will be watching the same news bulletins. This par-

ticularly applies to younger people and ethnic minorities.

The problem is less the medium than the message. The boundaries of non-political discourse, or at any rate what politicians talk about, are forever widening. They discuss everything from their families, via hobbies, likes and dislikes in pop music (never classical) and sport (football is in, cricket is out) to their personal beliefs and faiths. This is supposed to make them folksy and popular. But it often jars.

Such populist gestures compromise politicians' frequent insistence that their personal and family lives should be private. They face the same dilemma as the Royal Family in allowing the media access to their personal lives on their own terms. But it is hard then to draw a line between acceptable and unacceptable disclosure.

Politicians and newspapers, let alone chatshow hosts,

have different roles. It is for politicians to argue, debate, propose and act over public issues for which they are elected. But it is not their job to pronounce on non-political matters. It is nothing whatsoever to do with Mr Blair, or Tony Banks for that matter, who serves as England coach however much they disapprove of his comments on this subject or that. The Football Association is not an arm of government.

The essence of a pluralist society is that the role of government is limited, and that means what ministers say and do. Harold Macmillan was right when he said that people should look to bishops, not to ministers, for a lead on moral issues. Politicians ought to like that sport, the arts and the like are nothing to do with them. The People's Prime Minister remains a politician, not a talkshow host or a national confessor.

## Blair puts jobs at top of Europe's agenda

By MARK INGLEFIELD, POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR declared yesterday that he would like to scrap any EU legislation that stands in the way of people finding jobs.

The Prime Minister launched his attack on Brussels red tape as he discussed Europe's rising unemployment with local businessmen and women in Bristol. "A lot of these different regulations that have come about from a slightly different era in Europe can be revisited in circumstances where we are developing a dif-

ferent type of single market in the European Union," he said.

Mr Blair had travelled to Bristol with Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, who was paying a short visit to Britain. Both leaders took part in a question-and-answer session.

Mr Blair said beforehand that for "Britain to get the best out of the EU we must be players on the pitch, not commentators in the stands".

But his remarks focused on how unemployment could be combated. "Jobs and growth have got to be top of the agenda," he said. "There is no doubt that to tackle the unac-

ceptably high levels of unemployment in Europe, there has to be structural reform, accompanying a disciplined and strong euro."

But although Mr Blair said flexibility was required in the job market, he insisted this did not mean abandoning the social aspects of European employment law. He applauded Mr Kok for combining strong economic measures with social justice and compared it to his own Third Way. "It is the same idea, the belief that you do not pursue social justice at the expense of economic dynamism and strength."

## Labour moves to head off Morgan

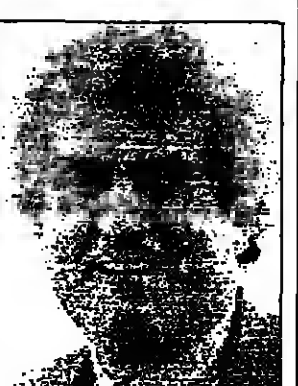
By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

LABOUR yesterday increased its efforts to cut short the momentum of Rhodri Morgan's campaign to become its Welsh party leader.

On his third visit to the Principality in three months, Tony Blair put his full weight behind Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary. But even if Mr Michael succeeds in securing the Welsh Labour leadership it will not guarantee him the post of First Secretary of the Welsh assembly.

Senior Labour figures are stepping up efforts to depict Mr Michael as the sound choice of all three sections of the party's electoral college in the race for leadership.

They believe Mr Michael will "win through" to voters when he meets Mr Morgan in a series of hustings meetings beginning on Friday. But a recent newspaper poll showed that nine out of ten voters backed Mr Morgan.



Morgan: nine out of ten backed him in recent poll

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# Nanny spared jail for shaking baby to death

Judge lets Australian go home for treatment because of her low IQ, report Richard Duce and Christine Middap

THE nanny who shook a six-month-old baby to death was yesterday freed to return to Australia after a judge ruled that she needed help rather than punishment.

Louise Sullivan, 27, will fly back to Sydney for treatment for the mental deficiencies that contributed to the death of Caroline Jengen last April.

The baby's parents refused to comment on Sullivan's sentence of 15 months imprisonment, suspended for two years, but police said that they had not wanted to see another life destroyed.

Muriel and Marcel Jengen were at the Old Bailey to hear Mr Justice Mitchell say: "Nothing can restore that baby to her mother and father. I can but hope that having braved the ordeal of these proceedings they can understand why I have, with some reluctance, allowed Louise Sullivan to return to Australia."

Sullivan, who has an IQ of only 81 because of a thyroid deficiency, was embraced by her mother, Robyn, and by her barrister, Nadine Radford, QC, who had argued that imprisonment would probably cause a mental breakdown.

The Sullivan family left the court without comment. Karen Todner, Sullivan's solicitor, said: "We are pleased that the judge was able to show compassion to a girl who has never deliberately sought to harm a child which she cared for and loved."

Miss Todner, giving Sullivan's version of events leading up to the baby's death at home in Cricklewood, northwest London, said: "Louise believed that Caroline suffered a fit or convulsion. Louise had never experienced such a situation before. During her training in Australia Louise was taught



Sullivan leaving the Old Bailey yesterday

the 'shake and shout' method. Most regrettably, it was this course of action that ultimately resulted in Caroline's death. This is not a case that is about temper or loss of patience. ... This is the case of a girl who panicked and made a mistake with tragic consequences."

Sullivan, who had admitted manslaughter, is expected to return to Australia with her mother and father, Barry, as soon as her passport is returned by police.

She had been a nanny for five years. Passing sentence, the judge told her: "The sad truth can be stated simply: with that deficit in your mental capability, you were wholly unsuitable for the career you chose and the work you were employed to do. There was, in truth, a concealed but massive question mark of your ability to cope with the ups and downs and occasional crises that can arise in the early months of a young baby's life." The judge said manslaughter

would normally demand a prison sentence but Sullivan "had not the slightest insight" into her mental problems, which had not previously been diagnosed. The court was told that she was born without a thyroid gland, which left her of below average intellect and prone to anxiety and depression. "Terrible though the consequences of what you did were, your action was not intended or, by any stretch of the imagination, an act committed in temper or gratuitous violence," the judge told her.

Sullivan had completed a childcare course in New South Wales and two Australian Red Cross courses during which she learnt the "shake and shout" method. The prosecution said that she had shaken Caroline for five to ten seconds, making her brain wobble "like a jelly inside a mould". The child died four days later from brain damage.

After the case, Detective Chief Inspector David Brown said there could be no criticism of Mr Jengen, a Dutch-born banker, or Mrs Jengen, a French-born financial analyst. They had interviewed Sullivan twice, checked her references and spoken to former employees who said that they had been happy with her work.

He asked that the couple be left alone to grieve and said that it was not for police to comment on the sentence. "I will never forget Mr Jengen saying that they did not want to destroy Louise Sullivan's life," Mr Brown said.

Valerie Howarth, chief executive of the charity ChildLine, said: "We urge that systems be put in place thoroughly to screen and register anyone working or seeking work with children so that tragedies such as this can be prevented."



Peter the macaw took to the trees after his defenestration and remains at large

## Love flies out the window

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A HENPECKED macaw is on the loose after crashing through a window to escape the advances of his partner.

Peter, an eight-year-old South American green-winged macaw, had endured months of unwanted attention from Prudence at their owners' pet shop in Frome, Somerset. On Monday, Prudence inched along the perch once too often. The colourful object of her affection, 38 long with a 4in beak and weighing 7lb, shot "like a bullet" across the

aviary and out through a closed window.

Jayne and Angus Hart, the birds' owners, spent yesterday trying to recover the bird. Mrs Hart, 40, said: "I knew they weren't getting on very well and Prudence made him a bit nervous, but I didn't know it was this bad."

Emma Magnus, an animal behaviourist, said macaws were choosy lovers. "If they get companionship from their human owners they often don't need it from a female."



Prudence: deserted

## MPs call for checks to keep QCs up to scratch

BY FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BARRISTERS who are made Queen's Counsel should undergo regular checks of their competence as part of a wholesale modernisation of the silk system, MPs say.

More than 100 MPs have signed an early day motion seeking a debate on the QC system, which they say should be examined alongside the Government's other reforms of the legal profession.

Queen's Counsel make up about one tenth of the practising Bar, which numbers 8,000. They are considered to have reached a high level of ability and experience.

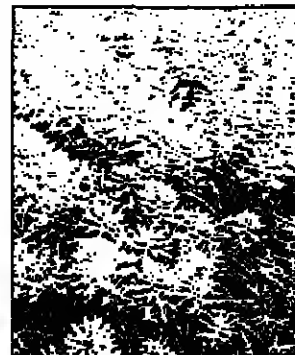
Andrew Dismore, a former solicitor who tabled the motion, said that there were no mechanisms to ensure that, once appointed, QCs kept up to scratch. "We are told that it is a kind of kitemark for the Bar, but if that is the case, there must be proper mechanisms for monitoring it," he said.

Mr Dismore, Labour MP for Hendon, said he was not waging a crusade against QCs. "Many of my best friends are QCs, as they say. And I have known some brilliant QCs ... but also some rather mediocre ones."

"At a time when we have radical and far-reaching reforms for modernising justice going through Parliament, we should take this opportunity to look also at the silk system and whether it is operating in the public interest."

Mr Dismore also suggested that the core of the QC system could be carried by the Bar rather than paid for by the taxpayer. The selection procedure costs the Lord Chancellor's Department £60,000 to £80,000 a year.

The rank is highly sought-after, with more than 500 barristers applying to become a QC each year. One applicant last year had applied 25 times before without success.



Parrot's feather: named as a foreign meadow

## Wetland war on alien invaders

BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

PARROT'S feather and fairy fern were yesterday declared a menace by the Environment Agency, which accused them and other foreign plants of clogging British waterways.

To mark World Wetlands Day, the agency declared Pevensey Levels in East Sussex a wetland of international importance and warned that its qualities were under threat from four alien species. They named the invaders as *Myriophyllum aquaticum* (parrot's feather); *Crassula helmsii* (Australian swamp stonecrop); *Acrostichum filiculoides* (fairy fern); and *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* (floating pennywort).

The agency, which says there are native alternatives, is asking all ourseries and garden centres to withdraw the four troublesome species from sale. "Now is a good time to think about planting pond plants, so we are urging pond owners and garden centres to be careful in their selections and avoid the nuisance species," Phil Griffiths, a spokesman, said.

Pevensey Levels is the largest and least fragmented area of lowland wet grass in south-east England, famous for dragonflies and freshwater molluscs. The foreign plants, having no natural controls, form dense carpets on the water surface, reducing the amount of oxygen and killing fish and invertebrates.

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# Olympic city's missing sword tale cuts no ice

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

MYSTERY surrounds the whereabouts of a traditional short sword which Japanese officials say they gave to Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), eight years ago and which appears to have vanished.

On Monday, the IOC said that neither it nor Señor Samaranch has any record or recollection of receiving a Japanese sword from the city of Nagano, which hosted the 1998 Winter Olympics.

However, the governor of Nagano prefecture maintains that the sword, made by a local craftsman, was presented to Señor Samaranch when he visited Nagano, northwest of Tokyo, in May 1991. The city was chosen to host the Games in June that year.

According to Governor Goro Yoshimura, who was

chairman of the bid committee, the sword was "donated" by the sword-maker himself, adding "there may have been an intermediary". But he refused to reveal the identity of either the craftsman or the intermediary, saying the sword-maker wanted no publicity.

In fact, the gift remained a secret until a Japanese newspaper made allegations last month that Nagano's bidding committee violated the IOC code of ethics by presenting Señor Samaranch with a valuable sword and kimono.

The governor's curious version of events — that a publicity-sly swordsmith presented the weapon at his own expense — has failed to convince a sceptical public. It is widely seen as an attempt to deflect anger about the misuse of taxpayers' money during Nagano's drive to host the Olympics.

Since the controversy over the Salt Lake City Olympics erupted, details have emerged of first-class air fares, all-expenses-paid stays at resorts, entertainment by geishas, and other luxuries lavished on visiting IOC members by Nagano. A Nagano citizens' group says it plans to take the Games' organisers to court for misuse of public money.

But potentially the most embarrassing perk is the sword, which was given to Señor Samaranch, according to the governor, but which Señor Samaranch cannot recall receiving.

There is much that is puzzling about the episode. No photograph is known to exist of a presentation ceremony — a curious omission in a country of obsessive shunobugs.

However, it has been confirmed that the necessary procedures for exporting the



Juan Antonio Samaranch in Lausanne, Switzerland, yesterday for a conference on doping. He has denied all knowledge of the Japanese sword

sword were completed, meaning that it left the country. Under Japanese law, guns and swords must be registered.

Nagano prefectural officials refused to say in whose name the sword was registered, citing "a need to safeguard

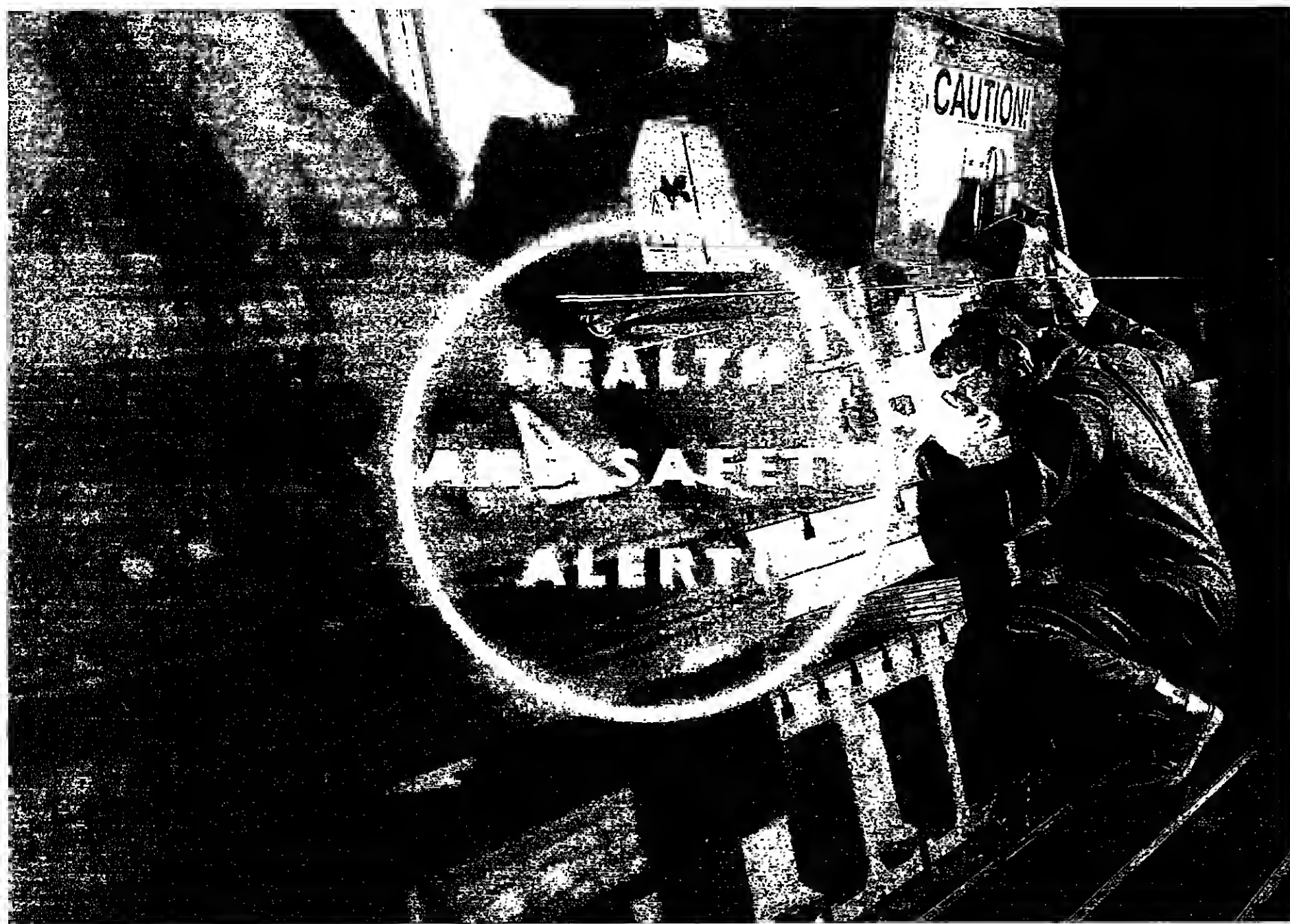
privacy". According to a local businessman, Soichiro Yoshida, who played a key role in Nagano's Olympic bid, the weapon is a traditional short sword — originally designed for hand-to-hand combat and piercing a foe's armour.

The Japanese Olympic Committee was yesterday preparing to respond to an IOC request for any evidence of wrongdoing in Nagano's successful bid. But it is unlikely to yield anything negative: city incinerators took care of that.

An official of the bidding committee last month admitted that he ordered 90 accounting books, detailing how much was spent on winning and dining IOC officials, to be burnt in 1992 because they carried "secret information".

Explaining this destruction of potentially damning evidence, Nagano's Mayor, Tasuku Tsukada, blithely told reporters that it was "the Japanese way of doing things".

Banks appeal, page 37



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## Woman on trial in Paris after 50 girls circumcised

MAMA GREOU, a French woman of Malian origin, went on trial in Paris yesterday for allegedly circumcising about 50 girls in the biggest case of its kind to come before a French court.

She was accompanied into the defendants' box by 27 of the girls' parents in the first hearing in France to be triggered by a victim's complaint. Hawa Gréou, 52, known among France's 40,000-strong Malian community as Mama Gréou, faces up to 20 years in jail if found guilty after a hearing expected to last two weeks. Human rights organisations are calling for a dissuasive sentence in the hope of stamping out the genital mutilation practised by a small minority of the several million people of African origin living in France.

The defence does not contest the facts, but says that French justice is ill-equipped to tackle an ancient African custom and should treat her with leniency.

The defendant was arrested after a tip-off from Mariatou Koita, 23, a law student in Paris of Malian origin, who denounced her for allegedly circumcising two of her sisters five years ago. Mlle Koita claims she suffered at Mama Gréou's hands in 1983, when she was eight. "There were several women," she told magistrates. "Two held me down, one held my legs, the other my arms. The third circumcised me. I shouted and asked my mother why she said nothing. My mother cried."



Koita: claims suffering at hands of Gréou

Case pits rights campaigners against ancient custom, writes Adam Sage

Detectives placed a listening device on the defendant's telephone and found what they say is evidence of about 50 circumcisions carried out over the past five years. The French Commission for the Abolition of Genital Mutilation says the true figure is nearer 100 operations.

The prosecution says that Mama Gréou knew female circumcision had been a crime in France since 1984 and took precautions to cover her tracks. She often performed her back-street surgery in holiday periods, when nobody would hear the girls' screams. Police officers found the unsterilised razors they say she used in the operations at her Paris flat, as well as an instrument made of two metal spikes fixed to a plastic tube. In 1994, she was given a suspended sentence after a court convicted her of carrying out several dozen circumcisions.

Police say the 27 parents, who are being charged as accomplices, all knew that the operations to remove the clitoris from their daughters were illegal in France. That point is important because defendants have claimed to be ignorant of the law in previous genital mutilation hearings in France.

Mama Gréou's lawyer, Jean Chavais, said: "Punishment is not as effective as education and prevention. I do not say circumcision is necessary, but if we want to fight it, we must use means other than the courts. It takes a long time to change habits."

But Linda Weil-Curiel, of the Commission for the Abolition of Genital Mutilation, called for a prison sentence. "Jail marks people's minds. That will enable families to use the risk of being sent to prison as a way of turning away from this custom."

Female circumcision is performed mainly, although not solely, by Muslims in the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

## Opposition leader jailed for speaking

FROM REUTERS IN SINGAPORE

A SINGAPORE opposition politician chose seven days in jail rather than pay a fine yesterday after he was found guilty of making speeches in public without a permit in a trial that sparked rare debate in the city-state.

Chee Soon Juan, 36, was found guilty of breaking strict public speaking laws. A district judge, See Kee Oon, fined him \$81,400 (£518), with imprisonment if he failed to pay.

Mr Chee said: "I feel that I have done absolutely nothing wrong. I have to serve time in prison for exercising my constitutional rights."

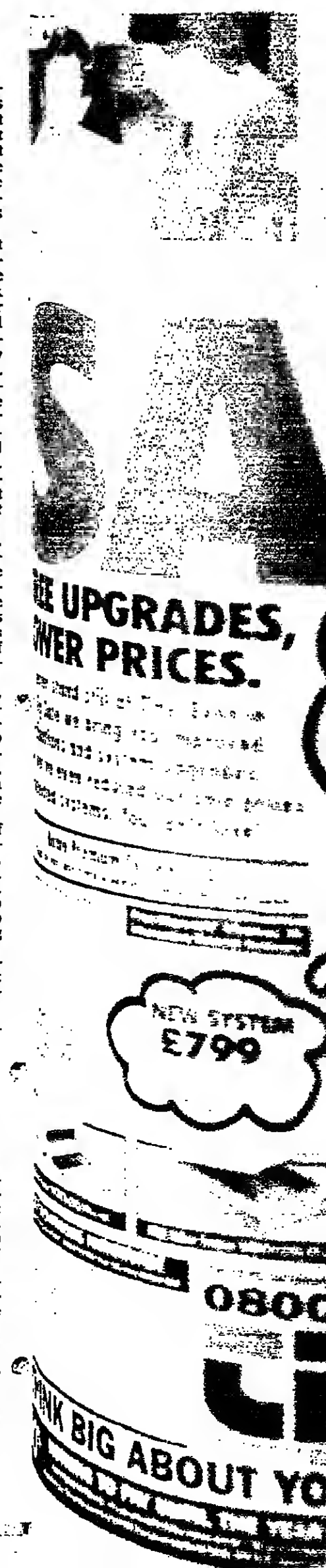
He was found guilty of an

offence under the Public Entertainment Act — which requires permits for public speaking — after he gave a speech on December 29 in Singapore's central business district without a licence.

His counsel, J.B. Jayaratnam, said that the Act was unconstitutional, but the judge disagreed.

Mr Chee, the Singapore Democratic Party leader, has had several high-profile clashes with the law. He says the public speaking permit system, censorship laws and state media control are designed to make it hard for the Opposition to be heard.

Belgrade spot as n agree to





## A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person's face, heavily shadowed and partially obscured by their hand. The person appears to be wearing a hood or a thick, textured garment. The image is grainy and has a stark, dramatic quality.

FROM ALICE LAGNADO  
IN MOSCOW

Organisers are hoping that Yuri Luzhkov, Moscow's Mayor, who backs the Orthodox Church stance against sex education, will not object. During a similar campaign last year, he ordered posters to be torn down and banned educational advertisements on a government-backed television channel.

But family members said they wanted the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe to help them with the task because they feared harassment by the Serbs. (Reuters)

News of the KLA's decision to go to Rambouillet emerged after earlier statements had indicated a more negative approach. Adem Demaci, the political representative of the KLA, said that he had advised against going to Rambouillet.

**Leading article, page 17**

**Pristina:** Serbian authorities in Kosovo yesterday released the bodies of more than 40 victims of an alleged massacre at the village of Banja, where the ethnic Albanian guerrillas by Serb security forces last month after completing post-mortem examinations.

The official Belgrade-based Tanjug news agency quoted a local judge, Danica Marinkovic, as saying the victims' families were free to take the bodies for burial in their village of Racak, southwest of the provincial capital Pristina.

But family members said they wanted the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe to help them with the task because they feared harassment by the Serbs. (Reuters)

**FROM NIGEL GLASS  
IN VIENNA**

**AN ARMLESS** man with a Hitler-style moustache and haircut repeatedly interrupted the first day of his trial in Graz, Austria, yesterday for the murder of four Gypsies, during a series of bombings, by shouting xenophobic slogans.

brought into the dock, he shouted: "Long live the Bavarian Liberation Army."

The unemployed instrument technician went on to attack foreigners and "the Zionist persecution of the German people". The judge, Heinz Fuhmann, repeatedly ordered Herr Fuchs to be returned to the cells, and much of the proceedings were conducted in his absence.

The prosecution said that a string of bomb attacks, carried out in Austria between 1993 and 1996 and purporting to be in the name of the Bavarian Liberation Army, was carried out solely by Herr Fuchs.

Police claimed that he had confessed to the offences, but Herr Fuchs's lawyers said that he was acting as part of a group.

The four Gypsies lost their lives

when a shrapnel bomb was detonated near their home in the eastern Austrian province of Burgenland. In another attack by letter-bomb, Helmut Zilk, a former Mayor of Vienna and supporter of minority rights, lost his hand.

Herr Fuchs lost his own arms when an explosive device, which he was carrying at the time of his arrest, detonated.

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## WORLD IN BRIEF

## Police in Pakistan attack journalists

Islamabad: Several people were hurt yesterday when police attacked hundreds of journalists and press workers protesting against a crackdown on the press that threatens to close Pakistan's leading newspapers (Zahid Hussain writes). A senior woman journalist received serious head injuries when she was hit by a baton. The largest Urdu and English-language newspapers, the *Jang* and *News on Tuesday*, were restricted to two-page editions as the Government blocked their newsprint supply and froze their bank accounts.

The *Jang* group said that it was being victimised because it refused to comply with a government demand that it should dismiss 16 senior journalists and stop printing corruption stories about Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, and his family.

## Reshuffle by Yeltsin

Moscow: President Yeltsin reshuffled his executive office yesterday, three days after leaving hospital where he was treated for a bleeding ulcer (Alice Lagnado writes). On an unexpected visit to the Kremlin, Mr Yeltsin dismissed four of his six advisers, leaving only his daughter, Tatyana Dyachenko, and Mikhail Zurabov. He also made Aleksei Ogarev, a presidential Deputy Chief of Staff responsible for defence, into Deputy Secretary of the Security Council where he will fulfil similar duties, and made Sergei Prihodko, another Deputy Chief of Staff, head of the executive office's foreign policy department.

## Bissau battle kills 35

Lisbon: A fierce battle between government forces and rebels fighting for control of Guinea-Bissau's capital left dozens dead and more than 200 wounded, aid workers said. Wagdi Othman, spokesman for the United Nations World Food Programme, said hospital sources in Bissau had reported counting at least 35 dead and about 220 wounded, mostly civilians. The fighting appeared to mark the disintegration of a November peace accord that had halted a five-month civil war. (AP)

## US jets in new raids

Washington: American aircraft bombed and apparently destroyed a newly-established anti-ship missile site in southern Iraq that could have threatened Gulf shipping, the Pentagon said. Officials said that four jets from the carrier USS *Carl Vinson* in the Gulf attacked the Russian-made missile battery. US jets also made at least four bombing strikes against anti-aircraft sites in the northern no-fly zone. (Reuters)

## Angolan air crash

Luanda: An Antonov-12 cargo plane, above, crashed into a shanty town in the Angolan capital's suburbs, killing at least 28 people. The plane, owned by a private Angolan company, SavanAir, was returning to Luanda airport 30 minutes after taking off because of a faulty engine. Witnesses said one of the engines was on fire as the plane went down. The aircraft exploded on impact and demolished five houses. (AP)

## Love on home front

Copenhagen: Peter Larsen, 24, married Anna Margrethe Soerensen, 93, to keep her from being put in a hospice by her family, according to Danish reports. Mr Larsen met her when she was a home-help in Gentofte, north of the capital. "A social worker came to persuade me to divorce, saying my husband was interested only in my house," Mrs Larsen said, but added: "I am not a rich widow. Ours is a love marriage." (AFP)

## President's pal in spotlight

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH  
IN WASHINGTON

AFTER failing to uncover any new bombshells during their interrogation of Monica Lewinsky, prosecutors in the impeachment trial of President Clinton yesterday turned their attention to his confidant, Vernon Jordan.

As Mr Jordan, a lawyer and golfing partner of Mr Clinton, was giving his deposition, senators were reviewing in private the videotape of Ms Lewinsky's testimony.

Those who were in the Washington hotel suite as she was questioned on Monday kept a public silence about what she said.

But news leaked out that she had added almost nothing new to the accounts she had given on 22 other occasions when she testified under oath about her relationship with Mr Clinton.

The former White House trainee was said to have given a polished, unflustered performance as she was questioned for four hours by Ed Bryant, a House of Representatives trial manager.

It appeared that she had been extremely well prepared by her team of lawyers. But while she did not provide anything new to damn Mr Clinton, she stuck with testimony that is already central to the charges of perjury and obstruction of justice against the President.

She maintained that she and Mr Clinton indulged in sexual conduct that he has denied under oath and repeated an account of a series of events that prosecutors insist shows that Mr Clinton was obstructing justice by trying to conceal his affair.

Nevertheless, the prosecution will be disappointed that she did not deviate from her story that she was never offered a job to buy her silence and that she was never asked to lie about the affair.

Her confidence was displayed when, in the middle of defence objections about his line of questioning, Mr Bryant retracted a question himself. "See, I'm making my own objections," he said.

"Sustained!" said Ms Lewinsky, to peals of laughter.

White House lawyers were apparently so untoubled by the way the questioning went that they asked no questions of their own. Instead, Nicole Seligman, one of Mr Clinton's personal lawyers, read a one-



Vernon Jordan, President Clinton's long-time confidant and golf partner, leaving his Washington home yesterday on his way to be questioned

line statement which regretted "on behalf of the President" the ordeal that she had endured. Ms Lewinsky said thank you to Ms Seligman, but gave no further reaction.

Mr Jordan, who had testified five times before the Grand Jury, was expected to be questioned intensively about discrepancies between his testimony and that of Ms Lewinsky. He is considered the key player in the efforts that were made to help find Ms Lewinsky a job.

He admits he helped her, but denies he did so to keep her quiet. Prosecutors claim he stepped up his efforts once Ms Lewinsky was called to testify in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case about the nature of her relationship with Mr Clinton.

The prosecution was under-

stood to be particularly keen to ask Mr Jordan why Ms Lewinsky said he reviewed her affidavit for the Jones case but he denied this; why she said he told her to destroy drafts of notes to Mr Clinton, but he says this was not the case; why he said he had never had breakfast with Ms Lewinsky but she supplied details of what they ate; why he had no memory of seeing gifts from Mr Clinton to Ms Lewinsky that she says she showed him.

Mr Jordan's interrogator was Asa Hutchinson, the Arkansas representative and former attorney who prosecuted Mr Clinton's brother, Roger, for cocaine possession and is widely regarded as the most effective of the House prosecutors in the trial so far.

Mr Jordan, however, famous for his slick, assured

manner, appeared totally unfazed as he entered the Senate. Wearing a hat with a feather in the band, he smiled and greeted reporters cheerfully as he went in and headed for a secure, soundproofed room normally used for classified briefings.

Today prosecutors and White House lawyers will question Sidney Blumenthal, a senior presidential aide.

Tomorrow the 100 Senators will resume the trial and decide whether to air the tapes of the three depositions publicly.

Meanwhile, momentum continues to grow for a "finding of facts" motion which could conclude the trial with a simple majority vote on the wrongs Mr Clinton has committed without removing him from office. Votes on other motions last week indicated that

the required two thirds of the Senate is not in favour of convicting him on the articles of impeachment.

Challenger bows out: Dick Gephardt, leader of the Democrats in the House of Representatives, is expected to announce today that he will not challenge Vice-President Al Gore for the party's nomination for President in 2000. He will concentrate instead on trying to retake the House from Republicans and becoming the new Speaker.

Mr Gephardt has been credited with helping the White House and Democratic candidates to shape the 1998 election as a referendum on the Republicans' handling of the Lewinsky investigation. Democrats picked up five seats in the House, narrowing the Republicans already thin lead.

## Clinton blush is acne flush

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

WAS that a blush creeping across President Clinton's face as Monica Lewinsky gave her deposition in his impeachment trial? Or was he just flushed under pressure? A red-faced Mr Clinton appeared in public on Monday as his former paramour was being questioned about their relationship. But the cause was adult acne rather than embarrassment.

Mr Clinton suffers outbreaks of rosacea, a skin condition that leaves him with a face like a beetroot. The cause is often stress. "If someone has rosacea, they always have it, so when they get excited or upset or they have their emotions upset, it'll flare up," said Melvin Elson, a dermatologist.

To be fair to Mr Clinton, it may have been something he consumed. Rosacea can be brought on by anything that raises blood pressure, such as spicy food or alcohol. Mr Clinton hardly ever touches liquor but he is partial to hot Southern cuisine.

Americans will sympathise with their President. An estimated 13 million of them are fellow sufferers.



Monica Lewinsky's picture adorns wrappers of chocolate bars with different fillings which went on sale this week in Tbilisi, the capital of the Georgian Republic

## Reform pledge by Venezuela's 'Mr Clean'

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN CARACAS

HUGO CHAVEZ, 44, who in 1992 led a failed coup in Venezuela, was sworn in yesterday as President.

He promised to clean up the country's corruption-riddled system, to uphold democracy and pull Venezuelans from the clutches of "cronism".

The former paratrooper won an overwhelming majority in elections in November after he appeared throughout the country wearing military uniforms and a red beret and promising that he would "try" corrupt politicians and judges, and would "take from the rich to give to the poor."

But he has changed his look and his oratory. He appeared in a smart suit at his swearing-in in Caracas yesterday and received a standing ovation from 18 Latin American heads of state who attended.

Reassuring foreign investors and the United States, which buys much of its petroleum from Venezuela, Señor Chavez said that his administration would continue with free-market reforms and with efforts to repay debts and reduce public spending.

His populist speeches initially made investors jittery, but markets have calmed down and now see Señor Chavez as a reforming leader.

Economists are pleased to see that he is following in the steps of President Menem of Argentina, who also came to power on populist promises but soon became a free-market leader.

"We want to make Venezuela into a forward-looking, thriving country and take it out of its backward, bankrupt state," the new President said. "We want to attract foreign investment and will show the world that our country is a safe place for investment."

Señor Chavez takes over from Rafael Caldera, 83, who had been slow in implementing reforms and unable to lift his country from the recession brought on by the oil price fall.

The new President's popular appeal comes because he is seen as a catalyst for change. Although jailed briefly for the bloody coup which he led in 1992 and associated with an authoritarian style of leadership, Venezuelans see him as an up-right "Mr Clean" politician.

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# Traditional cure is pick-me-up for Hong Kong

FROM JILL MCGIVERN IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG is launching a new industry with a product that is thousands of years old: Chinese traditional medicine. Old Hong Kong was built on manufacturing, which has largely disappeared to cheaper parts of South-East Asia or southern China. Now, in an attempt to fill the vacuum, there are radical new ambitions to develop the territory into an international centre for Chinese medicine.

As interest in holistic medicine grows, Hong Kong — international but now part of China — finds itself in a unique position to cash in. "Mainland China has a lot of research and several thousand years of experience," says Dr Daniel Tse, a leading

government adviser on the development of Chinese medicine. "But they lack credibility in terms of quality control and knowledge of the world market. These are the things Hong Kong is very good at."

Dr Tse says that, before the Second World War, Chinese medicine was the main service available to the population. But when public health was developed, the Government excluded it from the public sector, although it was still available privately. "The attitude was leave it alone — if it dies, it dies, if it lives, it lives," says Dr Tse. "As a result, there's been no legal framework on which Chinese medicine could develop. It did a lot of damage."

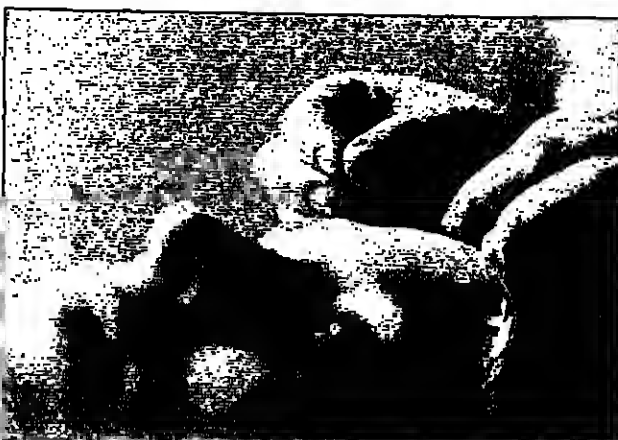
The new plans also fit Hong Kong's fresh political direction. The 18 months since the handover have brought a new emphasis on Chinese culture. Schools have been converted to Chinese-language teaching and the Chinese national flag and anthem are subtly pushed. About half the Hong Kong population uses Chinese medicine on a regular basis, often in conjunction with Western drugs.

The territory's 7,000 practitioners have varying levels of training, if any. Many work in dimly lit shops lined with shadowy jars of herbs, roots and animal parts. Anyone can set up business — and their medicines are unregulated.

But today, the Government introduces a Bill to the Legislative Council to set standards for the profession. It plans a Chinese Medical Council to regulate the three types of practitioner — general doctors, bone-setters and acupuncturists — and their medicines: natural herbs and plants and manufactured remedies from mainland China.

"We want to make sure people who use it have confidence it is safe," says Katherine Fok, the Secretary for Health and Welfare.

The long-term goal is for all Chinese medical doctors to be graduates in the subject and have to pass a licensing examination.



Hope is being pinned on treatments like acupuncture



Phil the groundhog with handler Bill Dealy after leaving his burrow yesterday

## Groundhog has his day as cruelty campaigners fail

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

PHIL, the Groundhog, got a nasty surprise when he poked his nose out of his burrow in Gobbler's Knob in the Pennsylvania town of Punxsutawney shortly before dawn yesterday.

Not only did the town's famous giant rodent find thousands of onlookers waiting for him to predict this winter's weather. He also stepped into the centre of a controversy about the use of animals in the midwinter festival known to Americans as Groundhog Day.

An old Germanic superstition, transplanted to the New World, holds that if a groundhog rests a shadow on February 2 — the Christian holiday of Candlemas — then bad weather is coming. If there is no shadow, spring will soon arrive.

It has been 110 years since emigrant Germans began holding Groundhog Day ceremonies in Punxsutawney, making it the leading such event in America.

This year, however, the celebration attracted the wrath of animal rights campaigners who insist that Phil ought to be left in peace. The group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, tried unsuccessfully to enlist Bill Murray, the actor, in a campaign to get the event cancelled.

"Someone's got to speak up for the groundhogs," said Dan Matthews, for the organisation. "This poor creature is dragged into the daylight with people screaming



Bill Murray declined to join the protests

ing at him. You only have to look into his eyes to see how bewildered he is." The organisers in Punxsutawney answer that the nine-year-old Phil lives in comfort, and has his well-being monitored by the state.

The crowd of 15,000 cheered when Phil was unable to see his own shadow — meaning an early spring. **LINKS**  
www.groundhog.com/index.htm  
The website of Punxsutawney Phil.  
www.groundhog.org/ — The history and significance of Groundhog Day.  
members.mel.com/groundhog/ — A site featuring groundhogs everywhere.

## Hussein 'holding up' after operation

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan yesterday completed his second bone marrow transplant in two months in a desperate attempt by doctors in the US to halt the spread of lymphatic cancer and postpone the serious instability that his death would provoke in the Middle East.

Speaking from the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, Jordan's Ambassador to the US, Marwan Muasher, said after the transplant was completed that the 63-year-old monarch was "holding up very well" but

"he is going to go through a difficult period for the next two weeks. He will be under close monitoring in case of complications either from the bone marrow or chemotherapy."

The ambassador said that the early indications were "very good". He added that during the crucial two-week monitoring period "every day that passes is a plus for him — increases his chances".

Foreign medical experts said that it was possible the King might spend the fortnight sealed in an immunisation tent to minimise the danger of infection which in his weak condition could prove lethal.

Part of the tragedy of the King's relapse, only days after his triumphant homecoming supposedly cured after six months of treatment in the United States, resulted from possible infection arising from his shaking hands with or embracing more than 2,000 of his citizens and riding 15 miles in the rain in an open-top car.

Last night millions of Jordanians were tuned to the Internet to get word of the King's health, as censorship in the Jordanian press and television has made them mistrustful of ever finding out the truth from their own media.

## Ban on live TV audience

JERUSALEM: Israel state television and radio yesterday banned audiences from live political programmes as a leading show host expressed fears that someone might be killed during a broadcast.

An unruly mob of pro-government supporters hurled abuse and spat at opposition political figures during a current affairs programme.

## Threat of Timor war grows

FROM DAVID WATTS IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S leading non-governmental aid agency said last night that civil war was inevitable in East Timor unless Indonesia troops withdrew soon.

The Australian Council for Overseas Aid wrote to Alexander Downer, the Foreign Minister, urging prompt action to speed the removal of Jakarta's troops and their replacement

with United Nations peacekeepers. "Our letter sets out our deep concern that civil war is inevitable, if not imminent, in East Timor unless there is some quick and strong action to defuse the situation," Janet Hunt, the director, said.

For the past two decades the Australian Government has toed the Jakarta line, for fear of displeasing the Indonesian Government or jeopardising oil and gas agreements.

The commander of the Indonesian Army, General Wiranto, admitted yesterday that supporters of East Timor's integration with Indonesia are being armed amid reports that thousands of villagers are fleeing clashes between pro- and anti-integrationist forces south-west of the capital, Dili. Meanwhile Jakarta yesterday decided to give greater autonomy to regional administrations, which have long resented Jakarta's control over their natural resources and development.

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# Wake me in a year or so...

A US anaesthetist believes that suspended animation may soon be possible, bringing significant medical advances. Anjana Ahuja reports

**C**an human beings hibernate? Surgeons hoping to perform certain operations, such as delicate neurosurgery, are able to cool patients down so much that their life signs disappear for about an hour. Now that scientists know it can be done, some have started searching for techniques that will allow people to be "shut down" indefinitely.



Professor John Hartung

The spin-offs would be tremendous — people needing organ transplants could be "suspended" until suitable organs are found. Severe burns victims, who normally die from infections within days, could be cooled down to temperatures too

low for bacteria to thrive. While they are suspended, patches of their own skin could be grown for grafts. Space travellers could be put into suspended animation and reawakened at far-off destinations.

While cryogenists — who advocate deep-freezing bodies so they can be thawed out at a later date — cannot look to the living world for proof that their technique will work, there are plenty of warm-blooded mammals, such as bats and dormice, for whom hibernation is part of their natural life cycle.

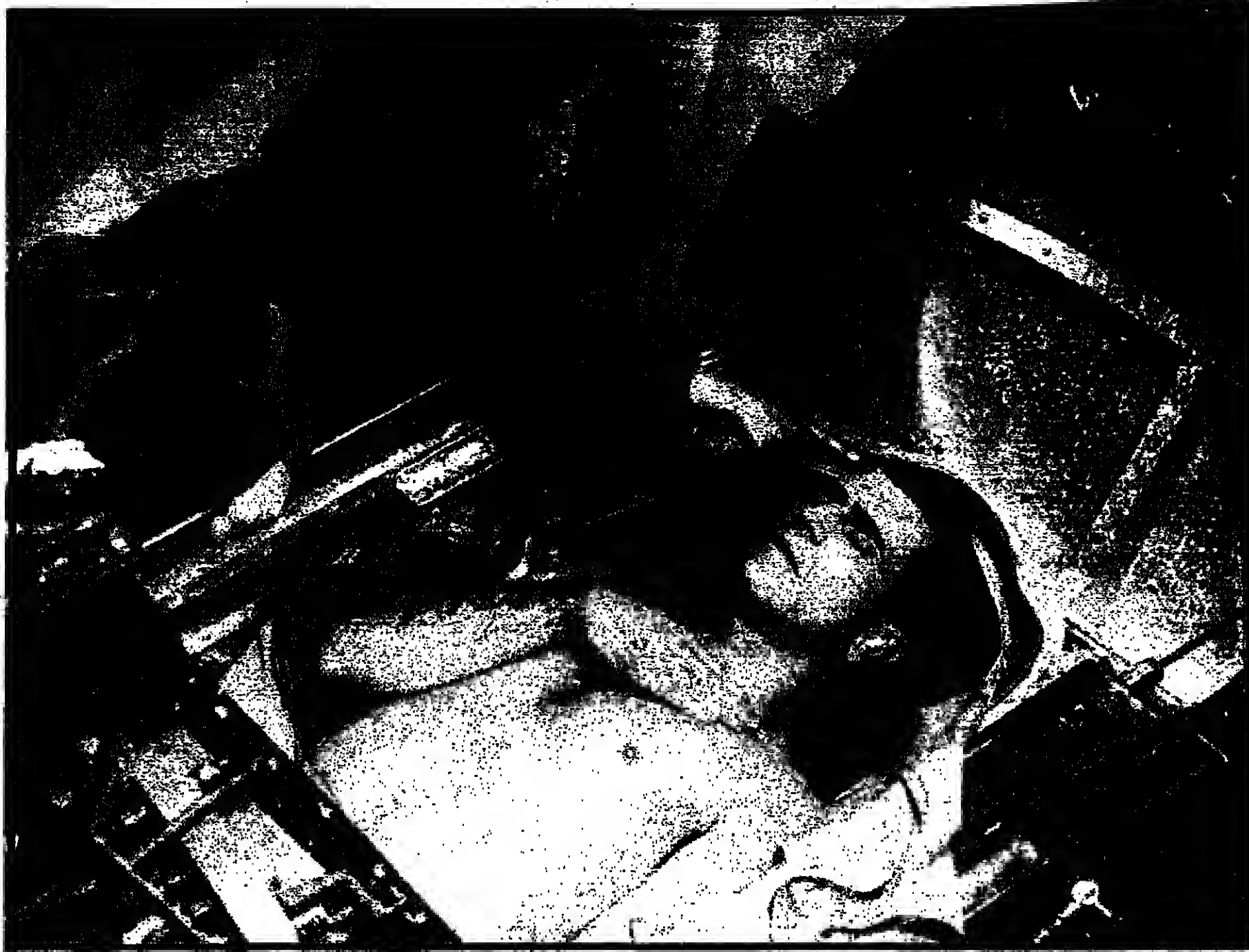
The cooling technique already in use carries risks and is therefore used only on patients likely to die within a year. Those with a giant basilar artery aneurysm — the swelling of a blood artery close to

the brain stem — are prime candidates. The first step in the procedure is to insert a heart bypass. Then the circulating blood is passed through a machine, which cools it. At between 14C and 18C (normal body temperature is 37C), circulation stops. There is no pulse, no heartbeat, no electrical signals. (Yogis can reportedly achieve this through willpower alone.) Neurosurgeons can then enter the brain and clip out the aneurysm.

"If you don't cool the patient down and stop their circulation, it's like working on a car with the engine running," says John Hartung, Professor of Anaesthesiology at the State University of New York. Even so, there is no guarantee that patients will emerge unscathed from the experience — about one in five dies. "The difficulty is not the surgery itself," he says. "It's when you cool things down."

The problem lies with the nerve cells in the brain that ferry messages back and forth. Professor Hartung explains: "Nerve cells send signals by opening channels that allow sodium to flow into the cells and potassium to flow out. When the patient is cooled down, these channels are plugged. However, sodium continues to leak through the plug into the nerve cells. So when the patient is warmed up again, the nerve cells become overwhelmed with sodium. Water moves around to compensate and this causes swelling. Blood can't push through because of the high pressure, and that's the end of the patient. What's going on in the brain can be compared to a battery: if left for long enough, the battery goes dead and can't be recharged."

Professor Hartung, who features in a documentary to be shown next week on the satellite channel UK Horizons, is a vocal supporter of research into human hibernation. He feels that the key to success lies in dealing with the leaking sodium. He has been experimenting on rats, using tetrodotoxin (TTX), a poison found in the puffer fish. In small doses, the poison causes paralysis. In large quantities, it is fatal. Strangely, puffer fish are regarded as a delicacy in Japan. However, brave diners are at the mercy of chefs who must hold licences to cook the fish. While a small amount of TTX is said to cause a pleasurable tingling, about 70 people die each year from TTX poison-



Mel Gibson in the film *Forever Young* — a Hollywood fantasy, perhaps, but some scientists believe that a form of suspended animation can be achieved within five years

ing. The poison has also been invoked to explain the phenomenon of zombies — people who apparently rise from the grave. Haitian medicine men who apparently have the power to turn people into the "undead" are known to use puffer fish in their herbal preparations. It is conceivable that "zombies" are individuals who have simply gone into temporary paralysis.

One of the effects of the toxin is to shut down sodium channels in the brain — exactly what is needed to counter the problem of sodium leakage. "I have given TTX to rats, cooled them down from their normal temperature of 38C right down to 1C, kept them there for a couple of hours, and then brought them back," Professor Hartung explains. "The problem was it didn't always work. I wasn't always able to wake them. I didn't know how to remove the TTX to get the sodium channels working again."

What he needed was an antidote to TTX, which does not exist. However, a few groups around the world, including researchers in the United States Army, claim to have found chemicals that greatly diminish TTX's deadliness.

Professor Hartung, who plans to explore these new findings, thinks that, with the will and the money, the first patients could be going into "shutdown" within five years. Professor John Hallenbeck, of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, near Washington, is cautious: "There

are undoubtedly benefits in applying hibernation to humans. But I am not sure how we would begin to approach it without having first understood how it takes place in animals. We do not know how hibernation is orchestrated, or what the master signals are."

He still hopes that such research may lead to treatments for circulatory disorders such as stroke. Professor Hartung says, however, that "human hibernation may sound fanciful but it isn't far-fetched". Cryogenics, though, is "rather silly".

"We cannot freeze whole organisms. There is so much water in the human body that when you thaw it out, it falls apart. Yet there are warm-blooded mammals who hibernate. If we can figure out how the bats and the ground squirrels do it, we should have enough information to do it with humans."

● *Supernatural Science, UK Horizons on Monday at 9pm.*

## Capturing the comet's tail

ON SATURDAY the Stardust satellite is due for launch from Cape Canaveral in Florida, bound for the comet Wild 2. Its aim is to capture the comet's tail and bring it back to Earth. The tiny dust particles that make up the tail could help to answer a question once dismissed as scarcely worth consideration: did life begin in space?

When Sir Fred Hoyle and Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe, of Cardiff University, suggested this 20 years ago, they were ignored. But the discovery of organic chemicals on Halley's Comet, and the claims made in 1996 of the detection of microfossils in a meteorite from Mars, changed things. Investigations of panspermia (as the theory is called) came to be seen as legitimate, says Professor Wickramasinghe, but unfortunately they were too late to influence the experiments on Stardust, which do not include any search for living microbes.

He is putting his faith in a cheaper experiment planned by the Indian Space Research Organisation. With collaboration from scientists at Cardiff, it intends to launch a series of balloons into the stratosphere and use them to collect samples of air at different heights. If the panspermia hypothesis is true, the Earth is bombarded by micro-organisms from outer space, which we cannot detect because they are identical to those already present on the Earth's surface.

Previous balloon experiments have detected micro-organisms at heights of almost 25 miles. There was also a hint that the number of microbes increased with altitude, which would certainly support the idea of an extraterrestrial source. But in the 1960s and 1970s, comparatively primitive techniques made it difficult to eliminate the possibility of contamination by microbes from the surface of the Earth.

The key, then, is to ensure absolute sterility of the pumps that will suck in the air, and highly sensitive techniques for detecting any bacteria or other microbes in



SCIENCE BRIEFING  
Nigel Hawkes

search. Organisation. With collaboration from scientists at Cardiff, it intends to launch a series of balloons into the stratosphere and use them to collect samples of air at different heights. If the panspermia hypothesis is true, the Earth is bombarded by micro-organisms from outer space, which we cannot detect because they are identical to those already present on the Earth's surface.

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The key, then, is to ensure absolute sterility of the pumps that will suck in the air, and highly sensitive techniques for detecting any bacteria or other microbes in

the air once it has been brought back to Earth. Microbes of extraterrestrial origin would be expected to contain different ratios of isotopes of carbon, oxygen and hydrogen from terrestrial ones, enabling a clear identification to be made.

How many microbes might be picked up? Professor Wickramasinghe has attempted a calculation. It is estimated that about 500 tons of extraterrestrial material reaches the Earth from space every day. Any microbes contained within it would be starved of nutrients and in a state of suspended animation, which means they would be very small. Estimating their mass, and guessing that one particle in every 100 reaching the Earth is a microbe, he concludes that there might be as many as 1,000 per litre of air at a height of 30km. Since the balloon can take a sample of 50 to 100 litres of air, it could capture as many as 100,000 microbes — well above the detection level.

The balloon could be flown by the end of this year, at a cost of £150,000. Most will be provided by the Indian Government, but the UK end of the project needs to raise £50,000. Grants are to be sought from the research councils — but other sources would be equally welcome.

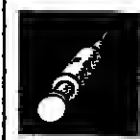
### Magnetic migration



LAST YEAR the magnetic north pole migrated north by 20km, measurements taken in Greenland by the Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI) show. This is 10 per cent faster than a year ago, and "the quickest movement since we started measurements in Greenland in 1928", says Torsten Neubert, the head of the DMI's solar terrestrial physics department.

The magnetic pole constantly moves, because the interior motions of the Earth that generate the magnetic field are in constant. In the past the poles have flipped over many times, north becoming south and vice versa. According to Physics Web (<http://physicsweb.org>) Dr Neubert thinks that the accelerating movement and the weakening of the field by 1 per cent in the past decade means another flip could occur by the end of the next millennium. This would be bad news. "In the period up to a reversal, the magnetic field would lose its strength and no longer be able to protect Earth from radiation from space. We could be exposed to violent cosmic radiation," he says. But other physicists suggest that the pole would have to be moving towards the Equator, not the true pole, to make a flip likely.

### The safe syringe



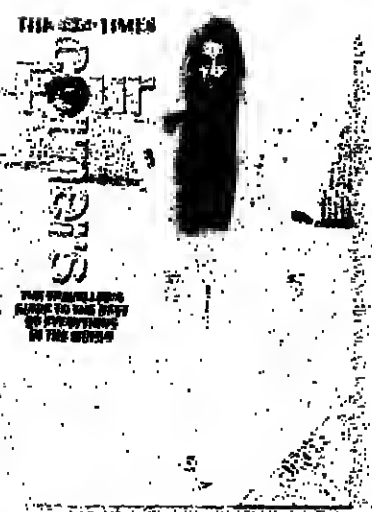
MANY syringes are designed to be used once, then thrown away. In reality they are often used more than once, particularly by drug addicts. Sharing syringes increases the risk of infection, and the fact that used ones still have needles sticking out of them poses a danger to doctors, dustmen and anybody else who comes across them. The ideal would be a syringe which, once used, retracted its needle and became both useless and safe.

The Sinief group, a contract research organisation based in Norway, says it has achieved this. Its new needle is mounted against the pressure of a spring, and locked in place by a small "bolt" made from alginates, the carbohydrates made by seaweeds and widely used as thickening agents in the food industry.

Alginates are soluble in water, and all medications being injected are dissolved in water, so as soon as the syringe is filled, the locking bolt starts to dissolve. Within minutes the bolt dissolves and the spring pulls the needle back into the body of the syringe, out of harm's way. This gives plenty of time to use it, but only once. The syringe should be ready for market testing this year.

30p

THE TIMES



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# 'You havin' a baby?' asks the cab driver, incredulously

Tuesday: Joanna is depressed. The due date for our baby has come and gone with no sign of nativity. This morning BabyCentre.com, the website for the expectorant, has fired off an automatically generated message of congratulations, based on our due date. "The long wait is finally over!" it confidently pronounces. "You've delivered your baby, brought him home, and — now what?"

Well-meaning friends keep calling to see if we have produced, and with each call Joanna gets more fretful. "I feel like this baby is never going to come out," she moans. She deals with her mounting frustration in a New York kind of way. She goes shopping. With every deadline-defying day we accumulate more infantalia. Baby tshirts (baubles) line the nursery, stuffed toys spill off the shelves, there are piles of cherub receiving blankets, drawers full of Babygros. Today's addition is a musical mobile of the solar system, with the Earth, Moon, Saturn and an arbitrary star revolving slowly around a smiling yellow Sun to the tune of

Brahms's Lullaby. I assemble it and wind up the melody a couple of times and already the tune is driving me nuts. I find myself humming a sinister interpretation of it, like the soundtrack to a horror movie.

Wednesday: "Oh, how humiliating," Joanna groans. She has received another e-mail, this time from a couple in our birthing class — Susan, the lawyer, and Neta, the Israeli computer-programmer — proudly announcing the successful birth of their baby daughter. "They were supposed to be two weeks after us," she complains.

"It's not a race, you know," I point out, but Joanna is in no mood for placation. "We should be enjoying this time," I say. "It'll be the last time we have alone together, the last time we have any peace." But the truth is I am humming with impatience myself, eager to end this dragging transition and get on with trying to make all those compromises that friends have gleefully warned us about.

My conversation with Joanna is giving me a headache as her eye-line keeps bobbing



about. She is bouncing on her Gymnic ball, a vast blue plastic inflated ball, reminiscent of those Space Hoppers of our youth but without the stubby handles to hold on to. She has read somewhere that diligent Gymnic ball bouncing can help to induce labour. "A baby is not something you

dislodge," I object. "And neither is it some foetal dangerous-sports junkie who comes flying down the birth canal like a bungee-jumper, hanging on to the umbilical cord for dear life."

Behind my bluster, however, there lurks a deep apprehension. Somehow, in the

process of birthing classes, Joanna has fallen in thrall to our birthing instructor's proselytising zeal for natural birth and I seem to have been manoeuvred into the role of labour coach. The whole thing strikes me as slightly scary; I feel as if we have stumbled into a cult. This is not what I wanted at all. I had imagined myself pacing expectantly about the waiting room, a couple of vintage cigars in my top pocket, waiting for a starved nurse with hair clipped to her hat to announce the birth of my child. Now I have been conscripted to the sharp end — no place for a male civilian.

Thursday: Our entire day is given over to medical probing. At St Luke's Roosevelt Hospital on 60th Street, a silent Chinese technician carries out a sonogram to check that the baby is still dunked in sufficient amniotic fluid. Apparently it is. Then on to an appointment with the obstetrician on Central Park West. I stand in the corner of the surgery, facing the wall, pretending to inspect a family planning calendar while Joanna hops on to the examining chair. Each of

the stirrups, I notice, has been thoughtfully sleeved in a striped oven glove.

"If there are still no signs of labour by early next week, we will have to perform an intervention," the obstetrician says. This, it seems to me, is the language of Special Forces, up there with surgical strikes. The vocabularies of medicine and war seem to be converging. When we get home, Joanna's Gymnic bouncing is particularly frantic. She cannot bear the humiliation of having to be induced. At 7pm she comes into my study, pale-faced. "I think I may be having contractions."

This is not an especially noteworthy remark, however, as she says it most days. But as the evening wears on, the contractions become stronger and quicker. At 10.30, we phone the obstetrician on call who sounds reluctant to come in all the way from her home in Nyack, a pretty faux fish-

ing village on the west bank of the Hudson, an hour from the city, for a possible case of false labour.

Two hours later Joanna is gasping with the pain of it, pacing about and trembling uncontrollably. I try to time the contractions but I appear to have forgotten even the most basic tenets of my Intensive Lamaze Birthing Course.

Do you time from the beginning of one contraction to the end of the next? Or from the end of one to the end of the following one? At 2am, Joanna can bear the pain no longer and I buzz down to the doorman and ask

him to hail a cab. We stand silently in the deserted lift surrounded by sufficient baggage for a long-haul holiday, and I realise that we will, if all goes well, be returning with a third person. The overnight doorman is girded against the freezing damp in a uniform that

would earn the envy of a Ruritanian general on a Gilbert and Sullivan stage.

"The very best of luck, sir," he wishes. He pumps my hand cordially and holds open the cab door. As I duck into the cab I see that the illuminated neon wedge on its roof features a pair of cuffed wrists. "1-800-Innocent," its caption reads, "when you're only allowed to make one call." The taxi driver ops up the peak of his baseball cap and checks out the scene in his rear-view mirror. Joanna emits a long, quavering groan and his eyes widen in alarm. "You havin' a baby?" he asks incredulously, as though no one in Manhattan could be so primitive as to procreate.

"I bloody well hope so," pants Joanna and the driver roars off, savouring the moment of drama on an otherwise sleepy week night. Soon we are hurtling down the deserted concrete canyon of West End Avenue, treating the string of late amber lights and early reds against us like so much surplus Christmas decoration.

PETER GODWIN

## Prozac is no longer my lover

I fell in love one day — with my pill, not a person. Prozac brought me to pumpkin muffins, yellowfin tuna and plum sauce. It brought me to Harvard, where I was accepted to study — what else? — psychology. So eventually my heart was wooed.

Then, in a way I can't quite define, I came to need it. I began to fear a nuclear war only for the effect that it would have on pharmacies. As I rode on the broad back of Prozac, I felt the hospitals were far away. I got used to health, then I got good at it. Ivy League school. Friends. One morning, I woke reaching for Prozac the way you reach for his hand. My fist closed on the bottle, the connection was complete.

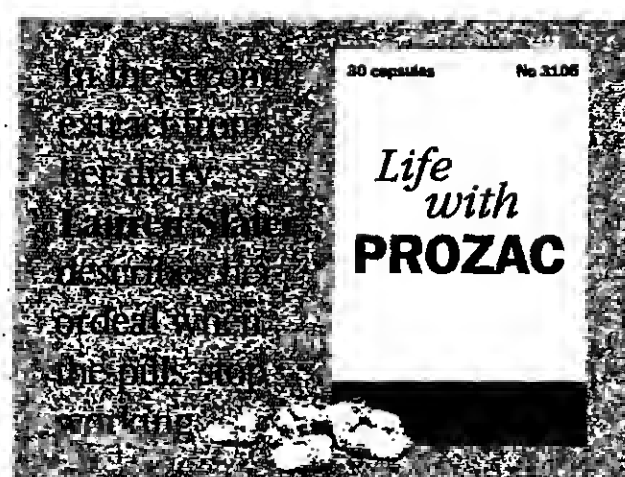
I decided to accept Prozac completely, to declare it an essential, inseparable part of me, my partner in life. To mark this transition, I moved out of my basement apartment. I'd been living in that dank place for longer than I could recall. I loved my new place. The French doors, the white walls, the floors of oiled oak. At school, for the first time, I got all the good grades and impressed people. I took piles of courses. Into my life at this time came a real man. It should come as no surprise that Bennett was a chemist, that he passed his time among

swan-throated glassware and Pyrex pipettes, that in the back pocket of his khakis he always kept a copy of the atomic chart, which he liked to read to me instead of romantic poetry.

In the midst of my affairs with my medicine and my boyfriend, I decided to take a trip. Mental illness has many qualities, foremost among them its smallness and ridiculous repetition. I was a boring madwoman. Almost all I could discuss was the number of dimes I'd tapped on the stove, the number of calories I'd consumed or how blah I felt. Somewhere in the world, I knew, there were golden cupolas and oceans that looked like moving marble. Now, a well woman, I wanted some part of it. I decided on Kentucky because that's where I got the grant to do the thesis research that would support my trip. I went in the summer, a terrible time to go, the temperatures hit 100F day in, day out.

What did I know? What did my doctor know? He was East European, and couldn't warn me about the weather in the South. But he might have warned me about other things. "Great idea," said the doctor, writing a three-month prescription — 278 pills, enough to fill four fat amber vials.

I, who had barely been out of Boston, drove across the country, powered by the passion of Prozac. I began having trouble sleeping. Two weeks into my trip, the Prozac had worn again: the Prozac had woman again: the Prozac had stopped working. I started to tap and touch things. Crack-



ups are always terrible, but this was so sudden, and so complete.

It was also humiliating. "She is odd," I heard Great-Aunt Mary whisper to Kat, the mother of the family who had kindly agreed to house me.

"May I use your phone?" I squeaked. From across the country I heard the ringing in the doctor's office: he was on vacation.

"Come to church," Kat said. "You're suffering from some city sickness." She reached out, smoothed back my sweaty hair. She led me to the preacher, who painted a cross of oil on my forehead and told God to get a move on and make me

well right here. Right now.

I'm well, I said, blinking. "She's well!" the preacher, shouted in jubilant tones. The church went into overdrive, everyone clapping and praising the Lord. I felt guilty. I didn't feel any better at all, but thought it would be polite to say I did. They practically wanted to crown

me for letting the Lord in, and so quickly at that. Oh, it was nothing, I said, smiling. I was bothered by the feeling of oil on my forehead. I swore it was dripping. I kept wanting to count the drips.

If I took Kat and Great-Aunt Mary only a few hours to see that I was not well. A soon as they saw me walking backwards, they knew. "The Lord works in mysterious ways," I said. "If He has entered my life once, maybe He will again."

I wasn't picturing the Lord when I said that. I was, of course, picturing Prozac.

When the doctor finally got back, I was sick as a dog. "What happened?" I said, frantic. "It's Prozac poop-out." "Why didn't you warn me?" I asked. "I had really come to love, I mean depend, on this stuff, for my functioning." "It's OK," the doctor said. "We can up your dose."

"What happens when we have a poop-out problem with the higher dose? Do we keep upping my dose until I die?"

But I wasn't going to take more, and get better, only to fall flat on my face again. The

point wasn't the higher dose; it was getting my relationship with the pill back. And I didn't see how that would happen, now that I had been betrayed.

Maybe I was tired of groveling. Or maybe, more likely, the rage at the doctor, the rage at the two-timing pill, rose up and ran over. Because there was a time, at the end of my Kentucky trip, when things shifted. Exhausted with counting and checking, I had finally fallen into a dreamless sleep. I woke up suddenly, a howl in my mouth, my hands clenched. And then I was outside, walking, pushing past the need to count before every blessed step. I was sick of being betrayed. I was sick of being so

thoroughly and pathetically passive. I was walking, thinking these angry thoughts when from across the field I saw a funnel form, black and spinning, almost woolly. Good. A tornado. I'd punch it out. No problem. I had lost my mind. I held my ground as this bit of black weather approached me. My mind got very quiet. I lifted. Then the funnel moved off.

I had come to the end, which is also the beginning. Over the next few days, even in the thickest of obsessions, moments occurred, split-second snappings of a shutter, the click of freedom. Then closed. I wondered if I could make these snippets enough for me.

A week after the devil duster, I followed the doctor's suggestion and upped my dose. I didn't die. I am still here. I could up my dose precisely because I learnt, in that field in Kentucky, that I didn't absolutely need to, that if the higher dose betrayed me, I had found something in myself to fall back on. The higher dose did help, though. Some of the one two three, tap tap tap, step on the crack or break your mother's back receded, but Prozac never again made me as well as it once had. It is not my lover any longer, but over the very long haul has become a friend, whose presence can considerably ease pain but cannot erase it. And, really, the relationship is better that way — even though I mourn the passing of my passion — because the great break-up has forced

me into my own muscles. I lift weights at the gym now. I am superb on the StairMaster. Yesterday I had a bad afternoon, and then I noticed a bit of beauty. "Stop checking the stove for a moment," Bennett said to me. "Come watch my *Datura* ferar bloom."

Sometimes when I cannot go to sleep because I must inspect the battery in every smoke detector, Bennett comes into the hall, rubbing one eye, and looks at me up there, on the ladder. "Come down," he says.

I wish I was 100 per cent in my mind. On a good day I am 70 per cent. On a bad day the repetitions and the grief cannot be counted.

"Come down from there," my Bennett says. I come down.

"You're obsessing," he says. "A blip in the serotonin system." He comforts me, takes me to him, and in his touch I feel how I am human.

"I'm going to write a book, about Prozac," I said one day.

"Excellent. I am in favour of projects that increase our understanding of drugs. What will the chapters be about?"

"At least one about sex." When Prozac was first marketed sexual problems were reported in 1 to 2 per cent of users. Some doctors now report sexual dysfunction in 40 to 50 per cent of their Prozac patients. I know about the problems that can come with long-term intimacy, the blah sensation when you have traced every nook and link in your lover's body. Believe me, though, the distance of which I speak is different. It is physical. It is local. I am not at all bored by Bennett, but it is as though I have been injected with Novocaine at a very specific spot. Ten years have passed since



Lauren Slater: "On the days that Prozac works, I am powered beyond me, and pushed into a realm where unfair advantage becomes mine"

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● **LINKS:** all responsible websites emphasise that you should see your doctor before you consider taking Prozac. [www.mentalhealth.com/drug/p30-p05.html](http://www.mentalhealth.com/drug/p30-p05.html), the Mental Health site, designed by a Canadian psychiatrist, has a useful list of information about the drug.

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# Slaves to political correctness

Sense and sensitivity conflict in this multicultural nation

It has been a week when race, once again, has seemed a candidate for America's most intractable problem. It is not that there has been a new act of racist brutality, although there has been a powerful reminder of one, with the preliminaries beginning in the trial of three white Texans who are accused of dragging a black man to death. The latest provocation has not been tragic but, instead, bitterly comic. The nation has been divided by one wayward word. The "niggardly" row, as it has become known, has swept the country, driving Monica Lewinsky from the scripts of talk show hosts and late-night comics.

The affair erupted when a white Washington city official lost his job for using "niggardly" in a budget meeting. The word caused offence to a black colleague who misunderstood its meaning. The first two syllables were taken as a slight.

The official in question, David Howard, was until January 27 the head of Washington's Office of Public Advocacy. The word was appropriately used: the city's budget is, indeed, mean and pinched. But after ten days of accusations that he had used the "N-word", Mr Howard resigned, making an abject apology for his failure to foresee potential misunderstanding by those unfamiliar with the word.

It was not just those outside the United States who found the action ridiculous and outrageous. Columnists and newspaper editors across the country denounced the "linguistic lynching" and the "tyranny of ignorance".

It is easy to mock the crippling political correctness, and miss the extent to which racial relations in America are no joke. The hair-trigger sensitivities of this week's farce show that the question of what it takes to glue so many different types of people together into one country is still unsettled.

It was no surprise that the dispute happened in the capital. During the lengthy stewardship of the city's Mayor, Marion Barry, it has been a showcase for racial tension at its worst. Mr Barry was a figurehead for many as a result of his leading role in the 1960s Civil Rights movement, but his period in office was marked by incompetence and racial division.

The "niggardly" row started many, however, because it happened under a new Mayor who promised a fresh start. The current incumbent, Anthony Williams, is black and Harvard-educated. He has been hailed as the city's saviour by much of its middle class, both black and white. But he is already under fire from some black commentators for "not being black enough". Sensitivity to that complaint is thought to be part of the reason why Mr Williams instantly accepted Mr Howard's resignation, even though Mr Howard had been key to his election campaign.

And even though academics took his side, Linguistics professors had their 15 minutes of fame, telling the nation that "niggardly" had its roots in the middle-English word for miserly, while the "N-word" for which it had been mistaken was derived from Spanish or Latin. By many, that argument was taken as the end of the matter. Julian Bond, the chairman of the Board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, called "niggardly" a "perfectly good word".

But it was striking how many people felt that the word's origins were irrelevant. "It just sounds so bad" was one common response. Jesse Jackson, preacher and civil rights leader, spoke for many when he said: "You've got to be pretty heavy to get into the Scandinavian roots of a word from two centuries ago."

It would be a rash politician who now used the word. In fact, it is probably doomed now to disappear from American debate. It is not that America is losing its passion for the principle of free speech. The dispute came just as a federal court blocked a popular new law which would require Internet pornography sites to demand a credit card number or other proof of being an adult before giving access. Granting an injunction against the Act, the judge said that children would suffer more in the end from the erosion of their rights under the First Amendment to the Constitution than they would from exposure to smut.

The debate is a painful reminder of the suspiciousness towards language that runs through American public life. In a deeply symbolic culture, given to much analysis of "what is really meant" by a phrase or a gesture, words matter. Offence is quickly taken. Neither in Congress nor on television is there the confident verbal rough-housing of the House of Commons or a Jeremy Paxman.

Even more, though, the dispute shows how deeply the sores of racial tension run. 134 years after the end of the Civil War, it is a reminder of how deeply the ideals of the American project were compromised from the start by slavery, and the power racial issues retain to split the country.

Of course, the "niggardly" row is absurd. Farce aside, it also represents a worrying principle. To all the rights in the Constitution, many would like to see a new one added: the right not to be offended, even if for an utterly irrational reason. That instinct is not just illiberal but inapplicable in practice. Yet given the bitterness of the country's racial legacy, it is hard to dismiss the row as a joke. Political correctness is the country's balm of choice for past hatred.

"Niggardly" will not be the last word to fall victim to the spreading realm of the taboo. It is a minor casualty of the fact that the great American experiment started from an untenable point, and the country has not yet succeeded in making its black citizens feel recompensed for that injury.

comment@the-times.co.uk



PARTY THROWN OFF PLANE...

# Married to the mob

Auditors turned a blind eye to crookery, and yet their power grows

The East Side Mob always did their own collecting. The black sedan would screech to a halt. Two men would enter the speakeasy and glide behind the curtain. Briefcases would change hands. The big one would smile, while the small one counted. "Dat," said the big one. "Is my accountant. He go to college. He makes up da figures." Some day later the big one was found in the river with concrete shoes. The small one vanished.

Ever since Robert Maxwell disappeared in 1991 from the deck of his yacht, I have been awaiting news of the small one. Four hundred companies went under. Thousands of pensioners were robbed. Four hundred million pounds disappeared. Maxwell's acolytes had to take refuge at the court of King Blair. But the small man stayed vanished. He had taken with him, it was said, a cool £4 million in fees. He was known only as Coopers & Lybrand.

Yesterday he broke cover. He was seen at his club. The club is called the accountancy profession's watchdog, the Joint Disciplinary Scheme (JDS). It gave the loudest tut-tut it has ever emitted. While remarking that a more competent audit might have led to the "earlier recognition and exposure" of Maxwell's frauds, it could not find it in its heart to savage the mighty house of Coopers, especially in the now even mightier guise of the absurdly named "PricewaterhouseCoopers". It fined the firm a mere £1.2 million plus £2.1 million costs, hardly a single year's Maxwell audit fee. Needless to add, the money will not go to those whom Maxwell robbed. It will go to finance the JDS. Accountants, like lawyers, never lose. Self-censure is not so much a punishment, more a duelling scar.

Some of my best friends are accountants. Theirs can be a noble vocation. I have watched accountants save from disaster factories, schools, clubs, orchestras, theatre companies, even newspapers. They are the keepers of every purse, restraining the over-enthusiastic, the over-enterprising and the merely extravagant. Their metronomic calendar keeps us in order until the Great Reckoning in the sky. And of all accountants, external auditors are the noblest, beholden not to mere firms but to the shareholders, the public and the law.

A group of inarticulate London policemen have had their lives and reputations torn asunder for incom-

petent pursuit of the Lawrence case. They had failed to honour the trust placed in them by the community. The media treated them with all the contempt it could muster. The external auditor is also a policeman, except that he is paid by the policed. This conflict of interest is excused with an appeal to professional integrity. An external auditor may be accountable to a firm for his fee, but to his profession for his judgment. I am tempted to conclude that what in a working-class occupation would be seen as blatantly corrupt, in a middle-class one is a badge of pride.

Maxwell was Coopers' biggest client, netting the partnership tens of millions in fees over 15 years of scrutiny. In his biography of Maxwell, Tom Bowler refers to his "relationship" with the partners at Coopers, whose tolerance, understanding, and willingness to take the publisher's assurances on trust were a great comfort to him. Coopers had been Maxwell's auditors since the 1970s, just after Trade Department inspectors had declared him unsuited to run a public company. This did not put Coopers — or a galaxy of Labour notables — on their guard.

According to yesterday's JDS report, Coopers' man at Maxwell's, the late Peter Walsh, was "of the old school". In accountancy-speak this meant that Walsh was under the spell of the man who paid his bills, and inclined his juniors to conduct favourable reports. At the subsequent inquiry, Coopers employees constantly pleaded the auditor's "fifth amendment": that their job was only to approve what was shown them. Their job was not to watch cash or intercompany loans. Yet they signed accounts which inflated the value of Maxwell firms and enabled him to continue his borrowings and frauds. This continued while every journalist was

screaming Maxwell's crookedness up and down Fleet Street, gagged only by lawyers whom he lubricated as well as his auditors. The JDS report concludes that "no member of the firm was suborned and there was no dishonesty". Instead Coopers partners were guilty only of what are called "quality of work" failings. These include "lack of objectivity and scepticism... and shortcomings in both vigilance and diligence... which might have led to the earlier recognition and exposure of the reality of what was happening". All of this, apparently, should in no way disqualify the four partners named in the report from continuing to practise. Gross incompetence in an accountant is formally declared to be no ground for dismissal. The only penalty imposed on individual partners is a tut-tut and in the case of one of them, John Cowling, a fine.

The fine on Mr Cowling is the strangest joke of all. "In our judgment," says the report, "the most serious of complaints in such circumstances could not justify a fine greater than £700." At first I assumed this to be a misprint. Surely for a tycoon of the profession found guilty in the worst case ever judged by his disciplinary body, the figure must be £700,000 on each complaint, or perhaps £70,000? But no, the fines on each count were of £400-£650, totalling £11,050. How does that compare with a negligent surgeon, banker, or travel agent, or the £2 million Carlton's film-makers were fined by the Independent Television Commission for falsely reconstructing a scene in a documentary? Such fines are an insult to every Maxwell pensioner, and a parody of self-regulation.

Accountants are claiming an every bigger role, not just in "corporate governance" but in public administration. Like health and safety inspectors, they answer not to democracy (except via some puny Commons committee) but to their profession. Just as private sector audit is revealed by the Maxwell affair as "free without responsibility", so public sector audit is power without responsibility. Professional auditors "approved" such *grands guignols* as the Crown Agents, the British Library, Hackney and Lambeth councils and the administration of housing benefit. If that is audit, Heaven help us all.



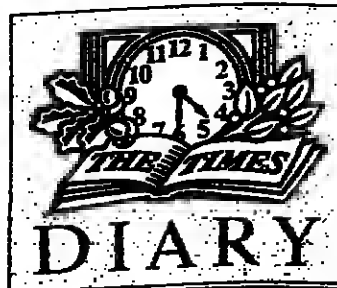
Simon Jenkins

The present Government is obsessed with value-for-money audit or VFM. This is a "top down" management technique, embracing performance indicators, objectives monitoring, output measurement and that annual orgy of mechanistic audit, the league table. Discretion once exercised by elected ministers and local councils has passed to such bodies as the local Audit Commission and the National Audit Office. They embody the triumph of the quantifiable over the important. They measure police car speeds, not neighbourhood security. The Audit Commission draws lovely league tables but does not blow the whistle on corruption or maladministration. It is the monkey that sees, hears and speaks no evil.

In his pamphlet *The Audit Explosion* (Demos), Michael Power issued a warning that audit was coming to assume "the status of an all-purpose solution to the problems of administrative control". It offered Whitehall a framework for keeping power while presenting an illusion of devolution. Value-for-money audit enabled ministers to tell teachers, doctors and policemen their preferred "performance measures", and then to blame them for failing to deliver. It is a control freak's charter, embodied in the person of David Blunkett. Mr Blunkett will not rest until every teacher and child in the land is under his statistical thumb from dawn to dusk.

Best-value audit is becoming the state religion of "Blatcherism". Not a ministerial speech passes without genuflection to its name. So it must be. But who will audit the auditors? Surely it cannot be left to a profession that admits it should have fingered Robert Maxwell long before he set sail — but preferred instead to take his shilling.

comment@the-times.co.uk



# Major oddity

GROUND control to John Major: the former PM's father inspired David Bowie to write *Space Oddity*, his seminal Sixties anthem.

Bowie tells me that he wrote about "Major Tom", the doomed astronaut, after remembering a fading theatre bill advertising Tom Major's circus act (left).

When Bowie (right) wrote the tune in 1969, Tom Major-Ball was living in Brixton, having left the circus to run his faltering gnome enterprise, and the singer — yet to grace the hit parade — was strumming in nearby Bermondsey.

Assuming this tale to be imaginative, I ask Bowie: "No, no," he assures me. "That is pretty close to the mark, but there is debate about dates." Bowie has, I understand, some trouble recalling the period.



● JUST how badly do Tony Blair and Gordon Brown get on? Lord Lamont of Lerwick says: "The thesis that Blair and Brown are at each other's throats is nonsense. They get on for better than Margaret and Nigel — or John Major and I."

# Clerical cruise

SUN loungers at ten paces: the former Bishop of Durham is to go cruising. The Right Rev David Jenkins is to join a Swan Hellenic cruise of Greece and Turkey as a guest lecturer. Among his companions will be Lord Charteris of Amisfield, the Queen's former private secretary and erstwhile Provost of Eton. But after Jenkins's pernicious suggestion that the coronation should be secularised, it might be the cleric who receives lectures on the importance of the Church and State's relationship.

● EARL SPENCER continues to follow in his sister's Gucci shoes. As his fire-damaged home in South Africa is rehatched, the Earl is to sprint down to Bournemouth to open a "drop-in centre" ("drop out", surely) for Aids victims. His sister might have created a bigger stir, but at least Charles is trying.

# Common good

AFTER the financial damage done to Clapham Common property prices by Ron Davies's nocturnal ramblings, Neil Jordan is making amends. The film director is to shoot his version of Graham Greene's magnificent *The End of the Affair*, chronicling the doomed romance of a couple after meeting on the suburban swamp.

Ralph Fiennes and Julianne Phillips, the former wife of Bruce Springsteen, have been cast as the leads, which should help to restore the Common's prim reputation.

WHICH DO YOU WANT FIRST THE GOOD NEWS OR THE BAD?



● CHERIE BOOTH is to be the subject of a sculpture, crafted by Shenda Amery, who styled effigies of such new Labour gurus as Baroness Thatcher and John Major. Who pays is a secret, but Shenda says that it is "a top dollar commission". So new Labour.

# Flour power

BRITAIN'S secret weapon against the Russians: the scone. Our man in Moscow has ordered 220lb of white flour to be sent from Norfolk to his embassy. The plan: to disarm Cossack chums with epicurean ammunition.

"It's for trade," I am told. "When they taste cakes made with delicious English flour, they will want to buy British."

● CHARLIE WHELAN: stand-up comic? The retired spinner has been visiting the Comedy Store, breeding ground for Ben Elton. So what is his best joke? "I don't recall any." Perhaps my memory is better.

JASPER GERARD

# 'I can't be alone in the chagrin which strikes when a batch of jolly adverts makes way for some duff programme about vets or cooks'

When you hear that today's persiflage is being brought to you by a man in an understated elegant Turnbull & Asser shirt cosseted by an immensely comfortable Eckorness swivel-chair in front of his truly incomparable Apple Macintosh word-processor, sipping a Selfridge cup of stimulating Douwe Egbert Colombian coffee and puffing at a Silk Cut Extra Mild commendably low in tar yet astonishingly rich in flavour, you will instantly twig that he is a man in whose heart there has always been a special place for advertising. So special, indeed, that he has deliberately misused the word persiflage for the sole purpose of telling you that the best place to look it up and put him right is the matchless *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, a snip at £10.99.

Friends, you cannot imagine the joy I took in cobbling that paragraph. How refreshingly different it is from the inconsequential witterings with which I normally pester your Wednesday! How packed to the gulleys with stout concrete stuff, not merely graphic and informative, but invaluable to readers still undecided about what to wear or drink or smoke or sit in or type on — and no less valuable to all the many manufacturers and distributors and retailers and ancillary tradesfolk whose livelihoods require the constant movement of goods, and thus, of course, to the national economy on whose vitality the welfare of each and every one of us depends. Think horseshoe nails, and you will very soon appreciate that the consequence of that first paragraph might well be a hip-replacement for poor hobbling Mrs Stimpkins of Hull or an extra chemistry teacher for stony-broke Cricklewood Com-

prehensive. That there might also be a bob or two in it for me, we shall come to later.

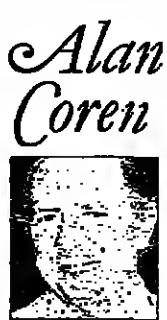
Now, I know I speak for all of us when I say that there is not nearly enough advertising about vets or cooks: or when, eagerly grabbing my morning newspaper in the hope of a brand-new double-page spread trumpeting a Curry's sale, I find nothing but towering columns of earnest editorial about Kosovo or Hoddle; or when, on some hitherto delightful drive, enchanting urban billboards peter out to be replaced by a windswept dreary green stuff and sheep: or

when, in the small in-somnias, hours, Classic FM caringly interrupts a couple of Oistrakh's sawing away at Bach's Double Violin Concerto to suddenly lift the soul with an allegro haemorrhoid jingle.

So, then, did you not do joyous cartwheels at Monday's news that a new company called Freedom had got into snugly bed with BT and other suppliers to provide a service whereby you and I will pay nothing at all for our telephone calls, provided we sign up to allow advertisements to be inserted into them? More cheering yet, many of these commercials will be interactive, empowering us — halfway through listening to our brother-in-law banging on about his alopecia — to order a pizza, join the Territori-

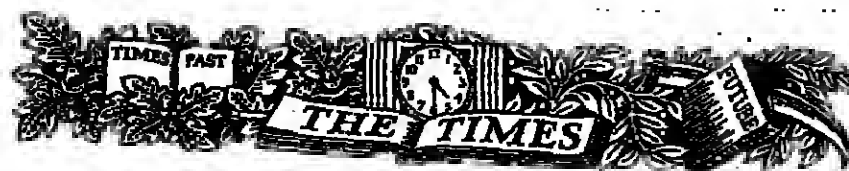
als, buy a previously cherished forklift truck, nice runner, no rust, or treble-glaze the chic oedarete extension we bought last week during a routine call to our dentist. And won't it, furthermore, make hanging on for half an hour even more fruitful than it is at present? For however much we all enjoy listening to 88 synthesizer choruses of *Volare* counterpointed by 88 capivating reminders that we are being held in a queue, these surely pale beside learning that C & A has a new range of exciting spring trousers, kindly state Visa number and inside-leg measurement after the beep.

But, can you believe it, hardly had my joy at Freedom's inspired and much-needed expansion of advertising sunk in, than I suddenly saw that it also pointed the way to even more life-enhancing possi-



Alan Coren





## GLADSTONE'S SHADE

Why Kosovo? Why British troops? Blair must explain

On the eve of its 50th anniversary, Nato has taken a decision of great moment, of which the alliance's public are barely aware and for which they are still less prepared. It is planning to deploy ground forces within a sovereign state, turning part of that state into a Nato protectorate. Nothing less is implied by the six-nation Contact Group's unanimously agreed strategy for Kosovo. On the Group's behalf, Robin Cook has summoned Yugoslav and Kosovan Albanian leaders to Rambouillet this weekend. If their signatures to an accord can be extracted, Nato ground troops are to police it. Should they fail, Nato has threatened, in effect, to bomb them back to the table. In this gamble for Balkan peace, British ministers have taken the lead, and British soldiers are likely to be the largest component of a peacekeeping force under British commanders. Gladstone's shade walks the Balkans.

What drives Western politicians is the knowledge that the near-truce secured by Richard Holbrooke last October is collapsing: fighting could immediately resume on a far greater scale. That would not only mean horrendous suffering for the Kosovans, a flood of refugees and a public outcry. It would entail strategic risks. The contagion could spread to Macedonia's large Albanian minority. A political collapse there could tempt Bulgaria and Greece to divide the corpse, inflaming Greco-Turkish tensions on Nato's southern flank. Dampening down the Kosovo tinder is preferable to putting out a southern European blaze.

Hence Nato's decision to act now; but decisiveness as to the means is not matched by clarity about what "success" in Kosovo would entail. The deal falls halfway between Belgrade's insistence that Kosovo is part of Serbia and Kosovan demands, hardened by Serbian repression, for independence. The Contact Group has demanded that both sides sign an accord by February 19. The purpose of Rambouillet is not negotiation, but acceptance of the Contact Group's *diktat*. The plan includes a sharply reduced Serbian security presence in Kosovo but not a total withdrawal; enough self-government for Kosovo to free its Albanian majority from Belgrade's jurisdiction but no independence; and investigations of atrocities by The Hague's special tribunal. The American aim is that William Walker, the US head of the OSCE observer mission, would then act as pro-consul for three years, chairing talks

on the final status of Kosovo, on which the Kosovans would vote in a referendum.

The outline of this plan has, however, been around for months, rejected by all. Rejection, in fact, is all that seems to unite what elusively passes for leadership in Kosovo. Yet Britain, France and Germany are firmly committed to send troops, in Britain's case possibly as many as 8,000. Russia is likely to join. And previously hostile opinion, in Congress and in the Pentagon, has abruptly shifted in favour of contributing a small US force. Compared with the long wrangling over Nato ground forces for Bosnia, the speed with which political plans have become a long-term military commitment is dizzying. But that is not because the prospects of success are greater than they were in Bosnia. Mr Cook insists that Nato soldiers will go in only when there is a peace to keep. In truth, they will go in because the alternative, an uncontrollable war, is too appalling, and too damaging to Nato, to contemplate.

Britain thus finds itself in a military venture whose eventual outcome is uncertain. The Western hope is that Mr Milosevic needs a Nato ultimatum to give him the excuse to relinquish control of a territory so alienated by Serb atrocities as to be uncontrollable except by massive force; and that even the most militantly separatist Kosovans will see that a Nato protectorate is in their interest. This is a gamble that logic of survival will win out over nationalist passion in a region where logic has the shallowest of roots.

The Government is right to have taken this lead. But Tony Blair needs urgently to explain why it is right for Britain, a middling power, to be so heavily engaged in the cause of wider peace. This question will be asked even if he persuades the country that Kosovo cannot safely be left to burn. He must convince anxious citizens that British troops will be there to serve the cause of European peace, not to fly the flag in support of his ambitions to demonstrate Britain's "leadership in Europe". He must guard against future accusations that the British people, whose support for this country's high military profile is a national strength, were in this case not given the full reasons for putting troops in harm's way. The people of this country understand well that a trading nation with global interests must be prepared to deploy its forces where international stability is threatened. But informed assent is the indispensable basis of public support.

## THE HODDLE STORY

The former England coach is not a martyr

The fall of Glenn Hoddle was as necessary as it was inevitable. He had lost the support without which it was impossible to be the figurehead for the national game. He had failed to separate his rights of free speech from his duties as one of the most influential men in a game with vast influence over the life of Britain, particularly over the young. He compounded his original bizarre and irresponsible comments about the disabled with a series of inconsistent and incoherent attempts to pretend that *The Times* had somehow misrepresented him. English football, as well as English public life, will be better without him.

Naturally his sacking has prompted sympathy in some quarters. It has been suggested that his religious freedoms have been trampled in an irrational stampede of political correctness. Other concerned commentators have chosen to cast his fate in terms of Western intolerance of Eastern spirituality or the harsh secularism of a country that has become atheist in so many ways. The England coach has thus been presented to parts of the public as some sort of modern amalgam of St Stephen, Savonarola and Salman Rushdie.

Mr Hoddle is miscast as a martyr. His claims in this respect would be stronger if he had spent the past four days either vigorously defending his views or apologising. In his departure statement yesterday he thanked those friends in the media who

had "tried to establish the truth". The truth has always been clear. Mr Hoddle has been in a state of denial of that truth, implying that his remarks, clearly recorded by our reporter Matt Dickinson, were inaccurate or that they had been distorted. At the same time as his agent was threatening legal action against *The Times*, Mr Hoddle was conceding in another newspaper interview that "the reporter from *The Times* did not misquote me but he did misinterpret me."

An England coach is not barred from spiritual views. But by speculating on deeper reasons for physical disability Mr Hoddle travelled into different territory. Neither is this a matter of undue sensitivity on the part of a lobby. Sport has taken on a transformed role in the lives of the disabled: competitive events have expanded hugely. Sport has played an enormous role in breaking down the barriers between the handicapped and able-bodied.

This is indicative of a wider change in the importance of sport in society, and the relationship between them. An England football coach, like other sporting icons, is now quite properly considered a public figure in a fashion that would once not have been appropriate. Diplomacy is rightly an essential element of the job. Mr Hoddle was no stranger to these arrangements. His successor should ensure that he is able and prepared to live up to the full duties of the office.

## FACE THE MUSIC

The new Controller of Radio 3 has a tough task ahead

Classical music may value harmony, but debate over its broadcasting has been less than melodic. Roger Wright, the new Controller of Radio 3, has to cater for an elaborate ensemble of tastes. The BBC's classical music network has been accused by some of elitism and inaccessibility, by others of pandering to populist tastes. Mr Wright well understands that it will take all his considerable experience to orchestrate a schedule to suit the broadest band of listeners.

Radio 3's commercial competitor, Classic FM, attracts wide audiences with an astute mix of favourite symphonies, sonatas and suites, carefully timed to accord with daily routines. Soothing classics ease exasperated commuters on the journey home, sprightly concertos rouse them once more the next morning. But, in an interview with *The Times* today, Mr Wright insists that his network "is not in the business of competing with Classic FM". The serious, educative traditions of Radio 3 will not be pushed aside by easy-listening entertainment. A compromise will be sought between corporate pressure to increase

ratings and public obligation to broadcast the widest range of quality music.

Although many enjoy the immaculate recordings offered by the compact disc, to others such perfection seems sterile which is why Mr Wright plans to place greater emphasis on live performance. Differentiating itself from its commercial rival, Radio 3 will relay exciting events from the world of music and audiences will feel almost as if they are participating in international festivals. Mr Wright also intends to expand the remit of Radio 3, by broadcasting the capital's most talked about theatre productions. People in the regions may, one day, no longer need to go to the trouble and expense of travelling to the nearest major city to enjoy, for example, the latest Tom Stoppard or Patrick Marber.

Clearly Radio 3 is to continue to hold the high ground. But for Mr Wright to maintain his course amid a polyphony of conflicting ideas and demands, he will need not only the most determined cast of mind but the unwavering support of the BBC, not least if ratings between Radio 3 and Classic FM gape more widely.

## East Europeans in plea for Pinochet

From the Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and others

Sir, We are writing to express our opposition to the extradition of General Augusto Pinochet to Spain, and make public our support for his role in Chilean history.

All of us are senior political figures in Poland and the Czech Republic, many of whom in the past have experienced imprisonment, violence and other abuses of human rights. We have also suffered the government of communists and their Soviet masters.

The actions of General Pinochet in 1973 were instrumental in rescuing his country from the horrors of communist dictatorship, and preventing a strategic expansion of Soviet global interests at the height of the Cold War. That cause was one many of us fought in Central Europe too, forming a common front with others across the world.

The prosperity and stability of Chile today are also a testament to the righteousness of the actions undertaken by General Pinochet. That stability is now jeopardised by the actions of the British and Spanish authorities.

Many of those opposed to General Pinochet are those who in the 1960s and 1970s were notably mute in the face of suffering by Central Europeans, and who were then quick to offer apologies for the numerous invasions, military coups and internment camps of the Soviets and their puppets in the heart of Europe.

We hope that General Pinochet will soon be free to return to Chile, where it will be for the Chilean people to determine his legal fate and historical legacy.

Yours sincerely,  
MARCIN LIBICKI,  
Vice-President, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe,  
VACLAV BENDA,  
Chairman, Office for the Investigation and Documentation of the Crimes of Communism, Czech Republic, 1994-98,  
RYSZARD CZARNECKI,  
Minister for European Integration, Government of Poland,  
VIKTOR DOBAL,  
Member, Czech Parliament, 1990-98,  
ALEKSANDER HALL,  
Member, Polish Parliament,  
MAREK JUREK,  
Member, National Radio & Television Council, Poland,  
STEFAN NIESIOLOWSKI,  
Member, Polish Parliament,  
c/o Robertson & Associates,  
104 Cambridge Street, SW1V 4QG,  
robertson@zoo.com  
February 1.

## Televising courts

From Sir Michael Davies

Sir, Louis Blum-Cooper (letter, January 29) suggests that the Pinochet or a similar appeal in the House of Lords should be televised. If he means live and at length, the inevitable and interminable legal arguments would be deadly boring except to erudite lawyers, perhaps even to them. After initial interest, I am sure viewers would be numbered in hundreds not even thousands. Edited highlights would be no more attractive, because there are few if any highlights. The idea is commercially impracticable.

At the other end of the spectrum, the televising of the sensational O.J. Simpson and Louise Woodward trials certainly made compulsive viewing, but at such cost to the interests of justice that the likelihood of further public circuses thankfully seems to me to have been postponed indefinitely.

Yours truly,  
MICHAEL DAVIES,  
Elliot House, Wolverley,  
Kidderminster, DY11 5KD,  
January 31.

## Full employment

From Mr John Grieve Smith

Sir, Christine Buckley's report and interview with David Blunkett (Business news, February 1) refers to full employment as "one of the great shibboleths of the Labour Left" and a "socialist dream". But the wartime vision of full employment was shared by people of all parties and expressed in the coalition Government's 1944 White Paper on Employment Policy.

Its subsequent attainment for over 25 years was an achievement of both Labour and Conservative governments. It was only in the 1980s that the deliberate maintenance of a substantial pool of unemployment became the accepted means of curbing inflation.

The fact that people now change jobs more often is not synonymous with the end of full employment. Indeed a strong demand for labour and the availability of alternative jobs facilitate industrial change.

The "social justice" and "social cohesion" to which David Blunkett aspires will only be achieved if full employment is once again put high on the political agenda, and the less skilled and less qualified are no longer left scrambling for insecure and ill-paid jobs at the bottom of the employment ladder.

Yours,  
JOHN GRIEVE SMITH  
(Author, *Full Employment: A Pledge Betrayed*, Macmillan 1997),  
Robinson College,  
Cambridge CB3 9AN,  
February 1.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Glenn Hoddle case casts light on freedom of speech

From the Headmaster of Abingdon School

Sir, I spent part of a current affairs period today discussing with some of my sixth-formers the reported views of Mr Glenn Hoddle about reincarnation. They spoke in impressively judicious tones about the likely impact of Mr Hoddle's remarks on disabled people. A number of them clearly felt that he had offended so gravely that he deserved to be dismissed from his post as England's football coach.

We became more animated, however, when I ventured to suggest that the opinions of a football manager, even of national status, upon a matter of religious conviction were hardly worth anybody's time — let alone that of leading politicians. I was given to understand, in no uncertain terms, that nothing could possibly be more important than football, that it was the essence of our national identity and that the officers of the game must be beyond reproach.

It was only when I put forward what was understood as a manifestly absurd proposition — that football is a waste of time and football managers utterly insignificant people — that my intelligent pupils could be brought to realise that the principle of freedom of thought might sometimes require the public toleration even of unattractive opinions. They were kind enough, at least, to refrain from calling for my immediate dismissal.

We then turned, with a sense of anticlimax, to Kosovo and constitutional reform in Britain.

Yours faithfully,  
M. ST JOHN PARKER,  
Headmaster, Abingdon School,  
Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 1DE,  
February 1.

From Mr Glenn Vernon

Sir, I have been disabled all my life; I have cerebral palsy, and like most disabled people I am well used to the misconception held by able-bodied people that my life, along with those of other disabled people, is a tragic struggle, and the thing I must desire above all else is to be "cured" of my palsy and become "normal", presumably fully equipped with a "half-decent brain" like Mr Hoddle.

Maybe that's the problem. Maybe Glenn should have left the intellectual stuff to those of us with more than half-decent brains and concentrated

on teaching people how to kick a ball into a net. You can forgive a man for being a fool if England are beating the world at football.

Yours faithfully,  
GLYNN VERNON  
(Member, Executive Council, Scope),  
1 Ingholder Court, Neath Hill,  
Milton Keynes MK14 6JN.  
glenn.vernon@virgin.net,  
February 2.

From Mrs Sue Davidson

Sir, As a parent of a severely autistic daughter, I have come into contact with many other severely mentally handicapped children and their parents. Parents often feel an initial sense of guilt about their handicapped or disabled child, as I did, they often believe that their child's disability is a punishment. Glenn Hoddle's claims do nothing to help matters.

I've always believed these children to be closer to God than I'll ever be, and that they were born into this world to teach others a lesson: my daughter has certainly taught me the lesson of unconditional love, and the irrelevance of material things.

Despite the problems which I've encountered in raising her, I believe in God and an afterlife. As her 18th birthday draws nearer, I often ponder on what could have been. However, it gives me the strength to carry on to know that one day, although not in this life, she will be made "whole".

Yours sincerely,  
S. DAVIDSON,  
3 Gyfe Gardens,  
Aberystwyth, Carmarthen,  
Carmarthenshire SA31 2JD,  
January 30.

From the Reverend Ronald Alpar

Sir, Your editorials (February 1 and 2) urge that Glenn Hoddle should resign, having given gross offence to the disabled.

Coming from *The Times*, that's a bit rich! Had *The Times* not reported Hoddle's remarks, only the relatively few disabled persons privy to his views would have been offended. By publishing those views, *The Times* has itself multiplied many thousands-fold the number of those so offended.

Yours etc,  
RONALD ALPAR,  
84 Duddsbury Road,  
Farnham, Dorset BH22 8RG.  
alpar@edial.pipex.com,  
February 2.

## Compensation for medical error

From Mr Nigel H. Harris, FRCS

Sir, Dr Michael Saunders, Chief Executive of the Medical Defence Union (letter, January 21), claims that "there is no evidence of a fall in clinical standards amongst the medical profession". I find it hard to accept that the very considerable increase in successful claims over the last ten years is largely the result of a change in public attitudes and awareness, as he implies.

He is presumably referring to patients who seek compensation (many of whose cases are abandoned). I would refer him to patients (plaintiffs) whose claim is successful because the standard of medical care (diagnosis, adequacy of pre-operative information given to the patient and quality of treatment) has fallen below that which they are entitled to expect and was not in accordance with accepted medical practice.

Evidence from over 3,000 orthopaedic potential negligence claims referred to me over the last 15 years convinces me that in certain respects standards have indeed fallen. I would be surprised if other disciplines did not reach the same conclusion.

Yours faithfully,  
N. H. HARRIS  
(Council Member,  
Academy of Experts),  
72 Harley Street, W1N 1AE.

From Miss Phyllis Bennett

Sir, The suggestion by Dr Saunders that a patient who has been the victim

of NHS clinical negligence should be restricted to receiving ongoing care only within the NHS would infringe every patient's right to choose. It would limit the general principle of English law that an injured party is entitled (in so far as money can achieve this) to be restored to the position in which he or she would have been but for the negligent act, and it is unlikely to save the NHS significant sums.

In my experience, as a solicitor specialising in clinical negligence, the most expensive claims are usually those for services or equipment either unavailable or inadequately provided on the NHS. These may include sufficient skilled care to give both patient and family some independence, computer equipment to enable a brain-damaged patient to communicate normally, extra physiotherapy to maximise potential, and the finest available prostheses.

Each successful clinical negligence claim is the result of eminent doctors concluding that the standard of care a patient received fell below that of the ordinarily skilled clinician specialising in that area of medicine, judged by the standards of that time. Why should the compensation available vary according to whether the accused is a careless driver or a careless doctor? The resultant misery does not.

Yours faithfully,  
PHYLLIS BENNETT,  
Walker Martineau (solicitors),  
64 Queen Street, EC4R 1HB,  
January 25.

## The Monty style

From Mr Michael Goldman

Sir, May I add a mystery to the reminiscences of Field Marshal Lord Montgomery (letters, January 18, 22 and 28)? In, I think, 1943, at the height of the war, the boys of Manchester Grammar School assembled to hear Montgomery address them on the subject of leadership. It was only many years later that it occurred to me how strange it was that this war leader should have taken time from his military duties to talk to a few hundred of us schoolboys. Contemporaries also remembered the occasion.

In August 1967 I wrote to the great man, who replied by return, writing in red ink on the back of my letter: "I definitely did not visit Manchester Grammar School in the 1940s."

Some years later the then High Master of the school assured me that Monty's signature did appear in his visitors' book. So was the field marshal's memory at fault, or was it a visit by his double?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL GOLDMAN,  
1 Lyndale Close,  
Blackheath, SE3 7RG,  
January 31.

## Cruelty to animals

From Mr Martin Offer

Sir, On January 28 *The Times* reported the case of a circus trainer who was convicted of hitting an animal with a riding crop. The report spoke of her reputation being "in tatters".

Two days later you printed a half-page feature extolling the skills of a young man who tortures animals to death in public. The report referred to him as a "genius".

How is it that bullfighting continues to exist in a moral vacuum, exempt from the standards of humanness, indeed humanity, which are common elsewhere?

Yours sincerely,  
MARTIN OFFER,  
4 Lion Road, Nyetimber,  
Pagham, West Sussex PO21 3JZ,  
February 1.

Letters to the Editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

From Mr G. J. Fellows

Sir, Having worked for more than three decades with disabled people, I believe there are very few who are not big enough simply to shrug off remarks made by Glenn Hoddle as they have to do with misunderstanding (and worse) from many quarters. But what of the rest of us? What has happened to this nation of tolerance and freedom of speech?

Yours faithfully,  
G. J. FELLOWS,  
Dawsons Cottage, 65 Lower Radley,  
Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3AY,  
February 1.

From Mr John Dilks

Sir, The FA is not responsible for the views Glenn Hoddle has expressed, but it is largely responsible for the fact that he expressed them.

The England coach must have the abilities to create a successful squad; but equally important are the political and diplomatic skills required of someone who will be regarded as a role model by hundreds of thousands of children.

The FA should have provided Hoddle with guidance on equal opportunities issues, diplomacy and, perhaps, general presentational skills. Arguably, without such help he was almost bound to say something like this eventually.

Yours etc,  
JOHN DILKS,  
Huddall Lane,  
Little Gaddesden,  
Hertfordshire HP4 1QE,  
February 1.

From Mr Brian W. Codd

Sir, What kind of world do we live in? The England football coach makes a silly, injudicious remark, a personal opinion with which clearly few people agree. However, perhaps sensible votes may be at stake, ministers call for his head. Meanwhile, these same ministers are part of a Government which includes a colleague who for many years apparently deceived his wife and children in a despicable manner. I don't recall these ministers calling for him to be sacked.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN W. CODD,  
Hope Cottage, Hampton Court Road,  
Hampton Court, Surrey KT8 9DA,  
February 2.

## The Civil War

From Professor B. S. Capp

Sir, Your leader on the Civil War and its aftermath ("Why Charles died", January 30) fairly summarises revisionist thinking but is in danger of throwing out the baby with the bathwater.

While the quarrel between King and Parliament was indeed a split within the ruling elites, it was the London crowds, not the elites, who drove Charles from his capital in 1642 and precipitated war. The armies facing the King later that year consisted largely of volunteers, and civil war was possible only because a significant proportion of citizens was politically aware and engaged.

The demise of Marxism, moreover, must not be allowed to marginalise the Levellers. Proto-democrats, not socialists, the Levellers insisted on the sovereignty of the people and a written constitution to make that revolutionary principle a reality.

Paradoxically, their deep suspicion of all central executive power, even the Westminster Parliament, makes them in part the forebears of the Conservative Right as well as the Labour Left, and their ideas on devolution have an obvious relevance and resonance today.

Yours sincerely,  
BERNARD CAPP,  
Department of History,  
University of Warwick,  
Coventry CV4 7AL,  
February 1.

## Wrong bark

From Mr Ian Brown

Sir, Your charming photograph of the youthful Prince Charles and Camilla Shand in Windsor Great Park (January 29) is not set against the bole of a "stout oak tree", *Quercus species*, but that of a massive beech, *Fagus sylvatica*. The coarse ridged bark of the oak is, as every schoolboy knows, wholly unsuitable for the carving of lovers' initials.

Yours etc,  
IAN BROWN,  
The Old Rectory,  
Smeeth, Church Stretton,  
Shropshire SY6 6NX,  
January 30.

## Tailpiece

From Mr Jack Dudley

Sir, Thank you for the delightful picture of the new Bunny Girl on the front page today, Saturday. A nice change from the army of bottomless anorexics through which we are obliged to wade in the fashion pages.

Yours,  
JACK DUDLEY,  
24 Edlyn Close,  
Berkhamstead,  
Hertfordshire HP4 3PQ,  
January 30.







OBITUARIES

PAUL MELLON

Paul Mellon, American philanthropist, connoisseur and bibliophile, died yesterday aged 91. He was born on June 11, 1907.

Paul Mellon became a byword for philanthropy. In 60 years he gave away more than \$600 million to benefit higher education, the arts, conservation and preservation, psychiatry, religion and science. His lifelong love of English literature and English paintings, especially sporting ones, began while he was at Cambridge. He would buy in small galleries and bookshops in consultation only with his heart. In his lifetime he bought almost 2,000 British paintings, as well as some 5,000 prints and 20,000 rare British books, many of them illustrated. Most of the paintings were bought at a time when they were unfashionable. Dealers wondered why he was not buying French or Dutch (which he did later), but it was Englishness, especially in rural scenes, that appealed to him.

It surprised none of Mellon's friends when he decided to make his biggest benefaction of all — more than he devoted to building the East Wing of the National Gallery in Washington — to founding the Yale Centre for British Art at his old university, Yale, in 1977. It cost him \$165 million.

Mellon also poured millions of dollars into British institutions for which he had an affection. His beneficiaries included Oxford and Cambridge Universities, the Royal Veterinary College, the Tate Gallery and the Fitzwilliam Museum. He was also the moving force behind the Paul Mellon Foundation for British Art in Bloomsbury (now run from Yale), and he made all his benefactions with a blend of

quiet good humour, self-effacement and stylish enjoyment.

Paul Mellon was born in Pittsburgh, the son of Andrew Mellon, whose own father had emigrated from Northern Ireland to the United States and went on to found the Mellon Bank of Pittsburgh. Andrew Mellon, a banker of near genius, went on to make a vast fortune. He had a gift for spotting struggling companies in key industries which could be made profitable with new money and better management — both of which he supplied. He was involved in all the classic American industries, steel, oil and railroads, and by 1923 only two men in America were paying more income tax: John D. Rockefeller and Henry Ford.

Andrew Mellon was still a bachelor at 47, living with his elderly parents in Pittsburgh. Then, travelling to England on an ocean liner, he met and fell in love with a vivacious 18-year-old, Nora McMillen. She was returning from a world voyage with her family, who were brewers from Hertford. Mellon proposed marriage and was turned down twice. But a year later he prevailed, and although the marriage was a disaster, ending in a public and acrimonious divorce, there were two children: Ailsa, who was to marry David Bruce, the future Ambassador to Britain, and Paul. The children were shared, spending six months of the year with each parent, and Mellon's childhood was a happy one, divided between winters spent in grand but gloomy houses in Pittsburgh, and summers — doubtless lengthened and brightened by nostalgia — in the English countryside.

He went to school at Choate, Connecticut, and then to Yale, where he came under the spell of



Paul Mellon leading in his 1971 Derby winner Mill Reef, mounted by Geoff Lewis

the university's great school of 18th-century English literature scholars. Then, rather to his father's chagrin, he went to Clare College, Cambridge. Friends there introduced him to fox-hunting and to racing at Newmarket, which he always considered the most beautiful racecourse in the world. Not long afterwards, in 1935, he bought a painting of a racehorse called Pumpkin by George Stubbs. Less than a year later, he was known to the artist's family as the son of the 18th-century stallion.

After Cambridge, Mellon went to work at the Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh. He hated it, but it took him three years to find the courage to tell his father. It was not easy to tell the cold and austere Andrew Mellon that he wasn't interested in banking, business or making money, but wanted to spend the family fortune on collecting pictures and books and making them available to the public in galleries. Mellon was painfully aware of his father's disappointment — though Alfred Munnings, later President of the Royal Academy, who was the best painter of horses in his day,

He also wanted to breed and train racehorses. This passion came from his mother, who grew up in England, learnt to ride well and wished her son to have the same pleasures. When he was a young man she let it be known that she wanted to buy him the best hunter in the world. The horse, Dublin, was an instant success, and Mellon liked it so much that he decided to be painted in the saddle. He liked to tell the story of going to the irascible Alfred Munnings, later President of the Royal Academy, who was the best painter of horses in his day.

Munnings forwarded a photograph of the finished painting to Mellon in America. Mellon wrote asking if he could tone down a willow tree in the background. Munnings responded: "First of all it is not a willow, it is a pollarded oak. Secondly, I have no intention of making any changes."

In 1936 his first racehorse, bought while Mellon was up at Cambridge, was joint favourite for the Grand National with the legendary Golden Miller, the previous year's winner. Unfortunately Mellon's horse, Drinmore Lad, injured a leg and could not run. In 1954 he had his first win on the flat, with Lonely Hills, and in the years that followed his colours of "black, gold cross and stripe on cap" became a regular sight in winners' enclosures around the country. In 1968 the Jockey Club made him an honorary member.

Many of Mellon's horses, such as Sunninghill Park and Morris Dancer, though never high flyers, became great and profitable favourites with the crowds. But his reputation as an owner was forged primarily with Mill Reef, one of the truly great colts of the century, bred by Mellon in the US and brought over to England in 1969. A compact little dark bay, with an enormous zest for racing, Mill Reef was beaten only twice. His victories, before his career was cut short by a shattered fetlock, included the Derby, the Eclipse, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes, and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

At his home in Washington, Mellon displayed a striking collection of racing trophies: the Washington International, the Belmont, the US Grand National, the United Nations Cup and the Jockey Club Gold Cup. But the trophy he pointed out to visitors was always a fountain pen bent in two. In 1975 he

was kicked in the ribs by a horse at Bath races. Two things, he said, saved his life, the pen in an inside pocket and "a good strong drink". Besides the Washington house, Mellon had five other homes: two in Massachusetts and one each in New York, Virginia and Antigua. All of these were hung with magnificent pictures by Constable, Gainsborough, Zoffany, Degas, Cézanne, Van Gogh, Millais and, most especially, Stubbs.

For 47 years Mellon was either president or chairman of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, which is based on the collections of his father. He had offices in both the East and the West wings, and when he decided to retire in 1985, the gallery mounted an exhibition in his honour drawn from the Queen's collections.

His first wife, Mary, died in 1946, and two years later Mellon married Rachel "Bunny" Lloyd, the distinguished landscape gardener who had created the most famous of American gardens, the Rose Garden at the White House, at the invitation of President Kennedy. She also designed the setting for the President's grave at Arlington cemetery.

In his later years, one of Mellon's great pleasures was the company of a few trusted friends, among whom was John Baskett, who helped to write his autobiography, *Reflections in a Silver Spoon* (1992).

Mellon was widely honoured by academic and sporting institutions, including Oxford, Cambridge, the Jockey Club and the Royal Veterinary College. As one of the great book collectors of the world, he was a member of both the Grolier Society and the Roxburghe Club. He is survived by his second wife, and by the son and daughter of his first marriage.

DON ROBERTSON

Don Robertson, AFC, wartime Fleet Air Arm and test pilot, died on January 5 aged 90. He was born on April 15, 1908.

AFTER a long and varied career in aviation which included flying mail in Canada's Northwest Territories in the 1930s, wartime service as a Fleet Air Arm fighter pilot and flight testing for Vickers, Don Robertson turned to operating commercial hovercraft in the 1960s. With a group of five business friends he founded the world's first commercial hovercraft service, Hovertravel, whose high-speed craft ply between Ryde, Isle of Wight, and Southsea to this day.

Not content with this, he later, with a friend E. W. Clifton, founded Griffon Hovercraft, whose products are exported worldwide. The company's cricket pitch-drying machine caused a sensation when it was introduced at Lord's last summer.

Educated at Rugby, which he hated, Robertson shook off its emphasis on the classics to become an engineer apprentice at Armstrong Siddeley, shortly afterwards learning to fly at Brooklands flying school.

In the early 1930s he went to Canada where, after working for a series of engineering



Robertson in a Spitfire in his test flying days

firms that went bust in the grim economic climate, he delivered airmail in primitive aircraft over the inhospitable Arctic wastes of the Northwest Territories. Frostbite, fuel shortages and forced landings were par for the course.

Later in the 1930s he returned to England to become a dealer on the London Stock Exchange. This, though more lucrative, he found dull after Canada. But he kept up his flying, and hours after war was declared on September 3, 1939, was beating a path to the doors of the Admiralty where he was swiftly granted a commission in the Fleet Air Arm. From 1941 he was a fighter pilot with 809 Squadron in the aircraft carrier Victorious, where his Canadi-

an experience of flying over trackless wastes stood him in good stead in operations covering convoys over the vast expanses of sea to be patrolled on the Murrumbidgee run.

From 1942 his flying skills were deployed as a test pilot for Vickers Supermarine at Boscombe Down. This was hazardous work, pushing successive marks of the Spitfire to the limits, as well as numerous other types. Test flying had other hazards, too. On one occasion his unmarked aircraft was mistaken for a German intruder over the Channel coast and pursued by RAF aircraft. To add to his discomfiture, ship and shore batteries added 4.5 inch and 40mm Bofors shells to the machinegun fire of his pursuers.

He was awarded the Air Force Cross for his wartime service.

After these excitements he found his return to business life in London a trifle staid, but he was a keen sailor and competitor in offshore races. He several times won the multi-hull class in the Round the Island Race from Cowes and twice took second place with his co-skipper David Cooksey in the Round Britain Race. He had a passion for powerboating, too, and co-piloted the winning *Tramontana* in the 1962 Cowes-Torquay race.

Finally his engineering skills and love of aircraft and the sea found a happy outlet in designing and building hovercraft. This was a mode of high-speed transport that had fired his imagination after the pioneering demonstrations by Sir Christopher Cockerell in 1959. After a few mishaps in trials at Bournemouth (including Robertson's slicing the tops off four fingers) he and five colleagues were ready to go into business. The inaugural Ryde-Southsea service was launched on July 24, 1965, cutting down the Isle of Wight Portsmouth crossing from 35-40 minutes to 8-9 minutes.

Robertson retired as chairman of the company in 1972. His wife Ella died in 1964. He leaves their daughter Jane.

ROBIN NEDWELL

Robin Nedwell, comedy actor, died of a heart attack after falling from a roof, on February 2 aged 52. He was born on September 27, 1946.

AT THE end of 140 half-hour episodes of *Doctor in the House* and its sequels, Robin Nedwell said he was relieved when the series came to an end in 1976, but, being an actor mainly for the money, he was not sure what to do next. "I am a very anti-actor," he said. He thought the West End was ripping off its customers. "Grab the tourists, grab the punters from up North. Nuts to the intelligent audience." But he didn't like the intellectual pretensions of the subsidised theatre either. "The last three things I have seen at the National Theatre have bored me stupid."

As a result, although he continued to appear on television, notably as the smooth-talker in *The Upstart Connection*, and on stage, he never did better than with his first professional role, the cheeky, accident-prone Dr Duncan Waring.

Television's *Doctor in the House* was a distant and rather poor relation of Richard Gordon's *Doctor* books of twenty years before, and followed on from the film of 1954, with its remarkable cast including Dirk Bogarde, Donald Sinden and Kenneth

Large, in *Charge, on the Go* and *at Sea*.

Robin Nedwell was a Welshman born in Birmingham. Although he claimed that he was an actor by accident, his dramatic debut was in *Goldilocks* in Cardiff when he was six, and he could recite the first line of that Welsh classic at the drop of a leaf. Before going to the Central School of Speech and Drama in London, he briefly worked, unpaid, for the Welsh Theatre Company. Then, three days before leaving drama school, he was given the part of Dr Waring in the first *Doctor* series, making him the envy of 699 others who had auditioned.

He had only a tiny part in that run, and when it was over Nedwell — who did not like to undersell himself — dropped out to look for better things. He worked in America, and appeared as Roland in the television series *The Lover*. He had just been offered a West End part by Bernard Miles when his friend Barry Evans, who had been the star of the *Doctor* series, left it in 1972. Nedwell rejoined the show, and his Dr Duncan Waring became the *Doctor in Charge*.

As senior houseman at the fictitious St Swithun's Hospital, he spent his time falling over himself trying to keep others in order while pursuing his bachelor ambitions. In a light-hearted way, the mapcap glamour extended beyond the screen, and Nedwell enjoyed being greeted at the stage door by adoring young women. In 1974, during the making of *Doctor at Sea*, he gave an interview by phone to a London radio station, along with the former Miss World Eva Rueber-Staier, during which they and a crackling line managed to give the impression that they had been married at sea.

On the contrary, he enjoyed being single, living in a flat in Kensington which had previously belonged to the actors William Franklyn and Ian McShane, and being seen in the company of a succession of actresses. After being placed among Britain's half-dozen most eligible bachelors he repeatedly said he was determined to stay that way until he was "at least 35". He just made it before marrying Heather Inglis in 1982.

Rather a dashing figure, Nedwell did not want to be limited to comic acting, and had a sideline in the choreographing of fights for stage and film, including Roman Polanski's *Macbeth*. Offstage, he relaxed by shooting and practising kendo — Japanese sword-fighting — and four times played the idiosyncratic and duel-prone Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*.

But his career depended on *Doctor*, and it depended on him. In 1971 it became the first London Weekend comedy to break into the mighty American market, when 52 programmes were sold for £200,000. Subsequently it was seen in the rest of the English-speaking world, and became the second longest running sitcom.

In the circumstances, Nedwell felt that he was insufficiently rewarded. He complained about his syndication fees and high taxes, and turned himself into a limited company. He also leapt at the chance to take a stage version of *Doctor in the House* on tour in Australia, where it was a great success. In 1991 the *Doctor* formula was revived for a six-part series by the BBC.

His films included *Stand Up Virgin Soldiers*, based on Leslie Thomas's romp about British servicemen becoming men of the world in Singapore. "A mucky job," said Nedwell, "fighting terrorists in the jungles of Hertfordshire." He also played in *The Taming of the Shrew* with the RSC, and in 1989 he starred in a stage version of *Brigadoon* in London. He was last seen in a tour of *The Sound of Music*.

He is survived by his wife, from whom he was separated, and by their daughter.



Nedwell with rival medic Barry Evans in *Doctor in the House*, 1970

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OXFORD IN KHAKI

OF university sports or amusements there are practically none. The Boat Race has been cancelled. This is the term for the Trips. But there are no rowing men. It is clear there will be no University Sports at the end of term, and practically certain that there will be no cricket match in July. Such football as goes on is the occasional recreation of the young soldier. A certain amount of field sports, also natural and useful to the soldier at home or abroad, still proceeds. Fox hunting is kept going on the countryside, and an occasional undergraduate officer on leave may join in it. The "Drag Hunt" still meets, and beagling is kept up by a combination of colleges and by constant capping. Some of the New College and Magdalen beagles have gone with their masters to the front. The ordinary undergraduate life has become still more attenuated. It is true that there are still about a thousand undergraduates in residence, but some 200, and those the more able

ON THIS DAY

February 3, 1915

Behind the many and varied activities of Oxford University in wartime lurked a growing concern over its financial future.

body, have gone since last term. And no new ones arrive, for the top boys from the public schools are still being intercepted by commissions directly any are ready. The largest contingent of those that remain is naturally that of the non-collegiate students. Of the colleges, the least empty, where none is full, are Keble and St John's, and next to them Queens, New College, Jesus, and Balliol. The society which is the most reduced from its normal size is Trinity, which has now only 26 undergraduates in residence, one more than St Edmund

Hall, and four more than Corpus, smallest of all. The most important and vigorous classes perhaps are the Americans and the Indians, who show up more conspicuously by the absence of the average young Englishman... It is striking, though only natural, that a large number of the "Blues" and sportsmen of recent years have already given themselves for the country. Of the scholars too, if not so many, yet many have taken commissions and disappeared... In addition, there are several battalions of Territorials and of the new Army in training, whose presence is an important factor in the life of the place. The officers of the 4th Battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry have been billeted for many weeks in New College, those of the 8th Battalion in Magdalen. The men of both are billeted in the town, a lucky thing for the lodging house keepers, whose rooms would otherwise be standing empty. Christ Church is the abode of the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars...



## NEWS

## Hoddle sacked for 'serious error'

Glenn Hoddle was sacked as England's football coach last night after 36 hours of frantic discussions over his suggestion that the disabled were paying for the sins of a previous life. The Football Association told Hoddle that he had damaged himself and his employers with his remarks in an interview with *The Times*, and that his position had become untenable. Hoddle later admitted that he had made a serious error of judgment. Pages 1, 6

## Life for stabbing lover's wife

The amateur actress Jenny Cupit was jailed for life for bludgeoning and stabbing to death her lover's wife. The 24-year-old mother of two changed her plea on the fifth day of her trial and admitted murdering Kathryn Linaker, a 33-year-old deputy headmistress. Pages 1, 3

## Family planning row

Family planning organisations criticised a leading gynaecologist after he suggested fitting teenage girls with a new device that will stop them having a baby for three years. John Guillebaud, medical director of the Margaret Pyke Family Planning Centre in London, said the girls could be fitted with the device when they are vaccinated. Page 2

## Nanny goes home

The nanny who shook a six-month-old baby to death was freed to return to Australia after a judge ruled that she needed help rather than punishment. Louise Sullivan, 27, will fly back to Sydney for treatment. Page 9

## Sword of mystery

Mystery surrounds the whereabouts of a traditional short sword which Japanese officials say they gave to Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee. Page 10

## Peace agreement

The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) indicated that it would attend the peace conference planned to start in Rambouillet on Saturday, putting pressure on Belgrade to follow suit. Page 11

## Clinton case

After failing to uncover any new bombshells during their interrogation of Monica Lewinsky prosecutors in the impeachment trial of President Clinton turned their attention to his confidant Vernon Jordan. Page 12

## Medical plans

Old Hong Kong was built on manufacturing, which has largely disappeared. Now, in an attempt to fill the vacuum, there are ambitions to develop the territory into an international centre for Chinese medicine. Page 13

## Love flies out through the window

A henpecked bird is on the loose after crashing through a window to escape the advances of his partner. Peter, an eight-year-old South American green-winged macaw, had endured months of unwanted attention from Prudence at their owners' pet shop in Frome, Somerset. On Monday, Prudence inched along the perch once too often. Page 9



The promise of an early spring was emphasised as daffodils were picked at Hayle, Cornwall, after one of the century's warmest Januaries

## BUSINESS

**Brazil shock:** The Brazilian Government stunned the international markets by sacking its Central Bank governor for the second time in a month. Page 21

**Accountants humiliated:** PricewaterhouseCoopers have followed the news that they had been fined £3.5 million for their inadequacies over years of auditing the Robert Maxwell empire with a humiliating admission of failure. Page 21

**Chief goes:** Reckin & Colman announced that its chief executive Vernon Sankey was to step down with immediate effect. Page 21

**Markets:** The FTSE 100 rose 0.60 points to 6013.0. The pound rose 0.57 cents to £1.6461 and 0.06p against the euro at 66.96p. The index fell to 100.7. Page 24

## SPORT

**Rugby union:** Will Carling, the former England captain, is coming out of retirement to make a surprise comeback at club level with Harlequins, his former team. Page 38

**Rallying:** Ford, who finished third in the Monte Carlo Rally last month, have had their points stripped, leaving driver Colin McRae fuming. Page 37

**Crickets:** Mark Taylor, the Australian captain, has announced his retirement from the international game following his side's Ashes series victory. Page 37

**Football:** Juninho, the Brazil international, has turned down a move to either Middlesbrough, his former club, or Aston Villa and is staying in Spain. Page 36

TOMORROW  
IN THE TIMES

**FILMS**  
James Christopher sees Kate Winslet ship out to Morocco in *Hideous Kinky*

**BOOKS**  
How the Chinese got it wrong in Tibet

**Preview:** A getaway driver explains why he became a supergrass (BBC1, 10.15pm) Review: How the other half lives: Joe Joseph watches *Coming Clean*. Pages 38, 39

## Gladstone's shade

Nato has taken a decision of great moment, of which the alliance's publics are barely aware. It is planning to send ground troops to Kosovo, effectively turning part of rump Yugoslavia into a Nato protectorate. British soldiers are likely to be the largest component of this force. Page 17

## The hoddle story

Glenn Hoddle had failed to separate his rights of free speech from his duties as one of the most influential men in a game with vast influence over the life of Britain. Page 17

## Face the music

Classical music may value harmony but debate over its broadcasting is less than melodic. Page 17

## SIMON JENKINS

Who will audit the auditors? Surely it cannot be left to a profession that admits it should have fingered Robert Maxwell long before he set sail but preferred his shilling. Page 16

## BRONWEN MADDOX

"Niggardly" will not be the last word to fall victim to the spreading realm, of the taboo. It is a minor casualty of the fact that the great American experiment started from an untenable point and the country has not yet succeeded in making its black citizens feel recompensed for that injury. Page 16

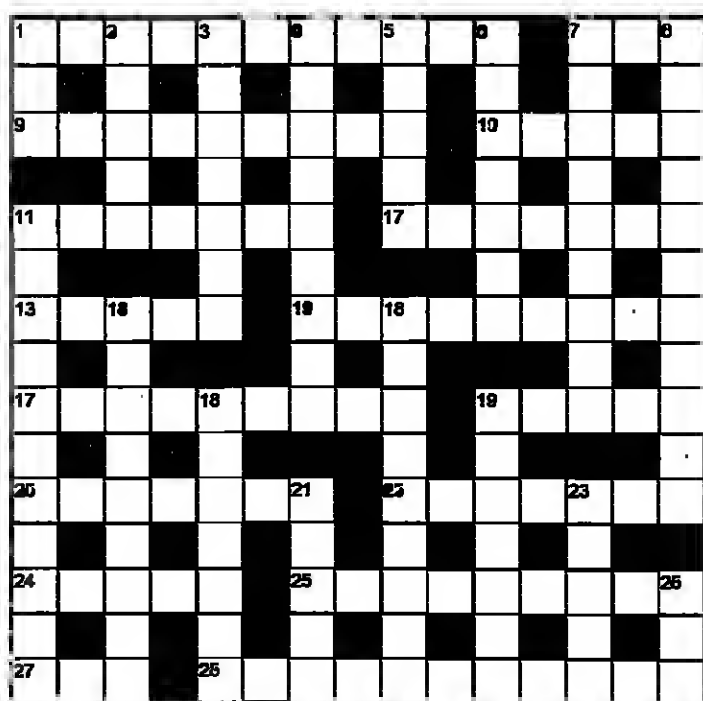
## ALAN COREN

Friends, you cannot imagine the joy I took in clobbering that paragraph. How refreshingly different it is from the inconsequential witterings with which I normally pester your Wednesdays! Page 16

Paul Mellon, philanthropist; Don Robertson, test pilot; Robin Nedwell, comedy actor. Page 19

Hoddle: Pinchot: medical errors: The Civil War: televising courts: Monty: cruelty to animals: bunny girls. Page 17

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,017



- ACROSS**
- He shot to fame, taking title role in opera (7,4)
  - Unknown doctor's written about extreme discomfort (3)
  - Familiar article that'll give you a close shave (4,5)
  - To alarm the old man's less than kind (5)
  - Animal tracks crossing America from East to West (7)
  - Published a remarkable children's writer (7)
  - For a long period, it's flipping hard to manage (5)
  - Some lingo that's new-fashioned (9)
  - In the right direction? Not according to young man's advice (9)
  - Charming female father and son finally meet (5)
  - Inferior - in bad temper after getting out (2,5)
  - Way to drive in historical village in Wilt (7)
- DOWN**
- Artist's exploit given backing by Tate originally (5)
  - Helping on plane journey overseas (9)
  - The old and new money (7)
  - Establish spy's taken in English royal family (11)
  - Turning up right away, was first to finish (3)
  - Pick up King's knight (5)
  - Not on the field, but on the ball (2,5)
  - Person getting in a fix in ocean vessel (9)
  - Fellow half-heartedly climbing mountain (5)
  - Allowed old vessel to enter battle at sea (7)
  - Boat's propeller - one beyond recovery found outside Idaho, wrecked (9)
  - Funding for minor purposes both appropriate and necessary (6,5)
  - Unfortunately Kent lost vital and versatile opener (8,3)
  - Thing pupil previously needed before term (9)
  - Offensive louts hang about (9)
  - Surprisingly listen in awe - trip is fantastic (7)
  - Report woman got on affair in America (7)
  - Extinct bird has since shown up over these islands (5)
  - League match (5)
  - Upset beer barrel in *The Crown* (3)

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We regret that the clue to 10 across yesterday was faulty.

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## HOURS OF DARKNESS

**Sun rises:** 7.36 am **Sun sets:** 4.52 pm  
**Moon rises:** 8.59 am **Moon sets:** 8.18 pm  
Last quarter: February 5  
London 4.52 pm to 7.34 am  
Bristol 5.03 pm to 7.44 am  
Edinburgh 4.48 pm to 8.03 am  
Manchester 4.55 pm to 7.50 am  
Perth 5.19 pm to 7.52 am

Alps	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Alps	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Books for Schools

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## FORECAST

**General:** very mild with plenty of sunshine but W and N Scotland will be dull and drizzly. There may be a little coastal drizzle in NW England. N Wales and N Ireland. **London, SE England, E Angles, Central S England, Midlands:** mild with sunny spells. Light SW wind. Max 11-14C (52-57F). **E. Cent N & NE England:** mild, sunny spells. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Max 10-12C (50-54F). **Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales:** mild, sunny spells but perhaps coastal fog. Light to moderate SW wind. Max 10-13C (50-55F). **N Wales, NW England, I. District, Isle of Man:** sunny spells but risk of drizzle near coasts. Moderate SW wind. Max 8-11C (46-52F). **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Moray Firth:** dry and mild with sunny spells. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Max 10-12C (50-54F). **Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland:** coastal fog and drizzle. Fresh to strong SW wind. Max 9-11C (48-52F). **Orkney, Shetland:** rain, out. Fresh SW wind becoming strong to gale SW. Max 8C (46F). **N Ireland:** risk of drizzle towards coasts, inland sunny spells. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Max 11-12C (52-54F). **Republic of Ireland:** cloudy, mainly dry. Wind moderate. Max 10-12C (50-54F). **Outlook:** breezy everywhere tomorrow. Showers on Friday in Scotland. Risk of showers elsewhere.

## AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm, b-bright, c-cloud, d-drizzle, ds-dust storm, du-dull, f-fair, fg-fog, g-gale, h-hail, r-rain, sh-shower, s-sleet, s-sun, t-thunder

Area	Sun	Rain	Max	Min	Area	Sun	Rain	Max	Min	Area	Sun	Rain	Max	Min	Area	Sun	Rain	Max	Min
Aberdeen	0.7	0.0	10.0	4.0	Leeds	1.0	0.0	9.0	4.0	London	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Manchester	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0
Anglo	0.7	0.0	10.0	4.0	Leicester	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Midland	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Newcastle	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0
Armagh	0.7	0.0	10.0	4.0	Liverpool	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	North	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Nottingham	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0
Belfast	0.7	0.0	10.0	4.0	London	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Norwich	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Sheffield	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0
Birmingham	0.7	0.0	10.0	4.0	Lowestoft	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	South	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Sunderland	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0
Bristol	0.7	0.0	10.0	4.0	Manchester	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Stirling	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Tyneside	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0
Burnley	0.7	0.0	10.0	4.0	Merseyside	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Warrington	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Widnes	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0
Cardiff	0.7	0.0	10.0	4.0	Newcastle	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Wigan	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Widnes	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0
Cardigan	0.7	0.0	10.0	4.0	Newquay	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Widnes	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Widnes	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0
Cardigan	0.7	0.0	10.0	4.0	North	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Widnes	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Widnes	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0
Cardigan	0.7	0.0	10.0	4.0	North	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Widnes	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0	Widnes	0.7	0.0	9.0	4.0

Extremes - day max: Tan Ranges, Highland, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries & Galloway, 6C (43F); highest rain: South Isles, Hebrides, 0.15in; highest sun: Home Bay, Kent, 5.8hr.

Alps	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Alps	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 1999

Markets stunned as Governor loses job to Soros aide after three weeks

# Brazil replaces new bank chief



Soros: real undervalued

By ALASDAIR MURRAY  
ECONOMICS  
CORRESPONDENT

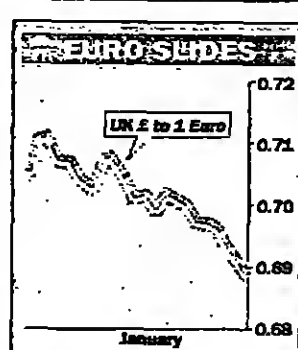
THE BRAZILIAN Government yesterday stunned international markets by sacking its Central Bank Governor for the second time in a month and naming a senior director from George Soros's investment company to the post.

Francisco Lopes is to step down as Governor only three weeks after replacing Gustavo Franco, in the wake of the Government's decision to float the Brazilian currency, the real.

He is to be replaced by Arminio Fraga, managing director of Soros Fund Management and a former director of International Affairs at the Brazilian Central Bank.

The appointment comes after a week of heated speculation over the future of both Senhor Lopes and Pedro Malan, the Brazilian Finance Minister. Rumours that Brazil was on the verge of imposing a freeze on bank accounts caused a run on deposits on

## EURO HITS LOW AGAINST STERLING



THE euro slid to a record low against the pound yesterday after fresh data pointed to a further slowdown in eurozone growth.

The euro touched 68.60p, some 5 per cent below its launch price, after the release of a survey showing manufacturing output in the euro area had contracted for the fourth month running.

However, with interest rate decisions in Britain, Europe and the US expected during

the next two days, trading was largely muted. The euro later recovered to close marginally up on the day at 68.98p.

The Federal Open Market Committee will make its decision today, with interest rates expected to be left on hold after unexpectedly strong fourth-quarter GDP growth. The European Central Bank is also expected to leave rates unchanged. But the market believes that the Bank of England will cut rates tomorrow.

Friday sending the real to a record low.

Markets are also anxiously awaiting the outcome of talks between Senhor Malan and the International Monetary Fund over the release of its second \$9 billion instalment from a total \$41.5 billion rescue package.

Senhor Malan is known to have met Senhor Fraga at the end of last week, although at the time the Government said that

it was not intending to undertake an overhaul of Bank personnel. Yesterday it tried to play down the connections with Mr Soros insisting that Senhor Fraga has now severed all links with the Soros funds and did not necessarily share the views of his former boss.

However, the markets were hopeful that the appointment could lead to a relaxation in Brazil's punitive high interest

rates after Mr Soros's forthright attack on the country's economic policy at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Monday.

Mr Soros claimed that the decision to raise interest rates after floating the currency was "a disastrous move" and called on the International Monetary Fund and Western governments to provide a "wall of money" to help to stabilise the

Brazilian economy. The billionaire speculator added that the real was now heavily undervalued. He has not revealed the extent of his investments in Brazil, but first employed Senhor Fraga in 1993 to help to build up his exposure to the region.

Analysis gave Senhor Fraga's appointment a warm welcome claiming he has practical experience of working in volatile markets and is well known in international financial circles.

But there was concern that he might face a bumpy ride in the Brazilian Congress, which will have to confirm the appointment. Seniors are unlikely to be impressed by Senhor Fraga's links with Mr Soros, the world's best-known financial speculator.

The surprise move caused immediate wobbles in Brazilian markets as traders digested the news. Shares fell more than 3 per cent in the first hour of trading before settling about 2 per cent lower. The real slid from 1.75 to 1.84 to the dollar, but closed back at 1.75.

Commentary, page 23



Lopes: stepping down

## Business Today

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Equity prices 27  
Unit trusts 26



Entrepreneur  
of the year  
The search is under  
way for the best  
of British talent  
page 25

STOCK MARKET  
INDICES

FTSE 100	6013.0	(-0.6)
FTSE All Share	2708.48	(+0.55)
NASDAQ	14348.83	(-115.35)
New York	9228.75	(-118.95)
Dow Jones	1283.45	(-15.55)
S&P Composite	1283.45	(-15.55)

US RATE

Federal Funds	4.75%	(5%)
Long bond	100%	(101%)
Yield	5.24%	(5.18%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	97.5%	(5.1%)
Life long oil	119.89	(120.06)
Future (Mar)		

STERLING

New York	1.6435	(1.6420)
London	1.6480	(1.6405)
Frankfurt	1.4498	(1.4512)
Yen	165.25	(165.00)
Index	100.7	(100.8)

DOLLAR

London	1.1328	(1.1304)
Frankfurt	1.4110	(1.4220)
Yen	112.00	(115.00)
Index	104.5	(105.3)

NORTH SEA OIL

Brut 15-day (Apr)	\$10.90	(\$11.00)
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GOLD

London close	\$289.45	(\$287.50)
* denotes midday trading prices		
Exchange rates Page 22		

# Maxwell's auditor admits 'we fell short'

By ROBERT BRUCE AND JON ASHWORTH

THE former auditor to companies controlled by the late Robert Maxwell finally came clean yesterday, admitting that it had fallen "short of standards" in auditing the accounts of the late publishing tycoon.

The firm, Coopers & Lybrand, which became Price WaterhouseCoopers (PwC) on merging with Price Waterhouse last year, was yesterday censured, fined £1.2 million and ordered to pay costs of £2.1 million over failings in its auditing of the Maxwell group of companies by accountancy profession regulators. The penalties are the biggest ever levied against an accountancy firm.

Accepting all the findings against the firm, Peter Hazell, managing partner of PwC, admitted: "We fell short of the standards we set ourselves. We lacked objectivity and scepticism. We accept that." In addition to the penalties against the firm, four partners, all still with PwC, were also criticised.

John Cowling, the engagement partner for London and Bishopsgate International Investment Management and for First Tokyo Index Trust, both Maxwell funds, was censured and fined £11,050 plus costs of £75,000. Other partners, Stephen Wootton and Nicholas Parker, were admonished and ordered to pay £10,000 each in costs over their roles while another partner, Ian Steere, was ordered to pay £5,000 in costs.

The Joint Disciplinary Scheme (JDS), which polices the accountancy profession, found that Coopers "lost the colour" in its dealings with the Maxwell companies. The firm admitted that it failed to consider evidence of fraud or other

wrongdoings as of August 1991 — three months before Maxwell died.

A lack of objectivity in dealing with Maxwell and his companies lay at the heart of many of the complaints against Coopers. "The complaints reveal shortcomings in both vigilance and diligence and a failure to achieve an appropriate degree of objectivity and scepticism, which might have led to an earlier recognition and exposure of the reality of what was occurring," the JDS report said.

They included such issues as failing to ensure that huge unsecured loans of pension fund assets to Maxwell's private companies were disclosed in public company accounts and reported to Imro, the investment management regulatory organisation; failing to consider, despite all the evidence, whether there was evidence of fraud and unlawful acts that would have required "whistleblowing"; and failing to qualify crucial public company accounts.

The firm's lead partner on the work, Peter Walsh, who has since died, is described as being of "the old school" and in awe of Maxwell, whose ultimate depredations were, for him, "perplexing and out of character." Coopers compounded this problem by understating the work and not providing enough people who had relevant experience.

One manager's notes in an assessment of the control environment are quoted in the report as saying "board and management one and the same, no internal independent review and there are not enough junior staff to allow senior staff a purely review role".



Vernon Sankey is leaving the group he joined in 1971 after seven years as chief executive

## Launch of euro lifts Liffe trade

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE launch of the euro boosted trading volumes at Liffe, London's futures exchange, by 47 per cent last month.

The total value of contracts traded at the exchange reached £4.716 billion in January, compared with £3.227 billion in the previous month. However, on a year-on-year basis, trading volumes during the month were down 6 per cent. Trading levels were boosted because of the introduction of futures contracts based on Eurobonds.

Hugh Freeburg, Liffe's chief executive, said: "Liffe's Eurobond Futures contract has grown from zero to £403 billion open interest, making it the most successful launch ever of a financial futures contract. Liffe's Eurobond contract has been regularly breaking records and on January 27, set a new record trading £122 billion." It was feared that Liffe would lose business to other futures markets in Europe as the UK had opted out of the single currency.

## Reckitt & Colman to offer Sankey payoff of £900,000

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

VERNON SANKEY is to part company with Reckitt & Colman, the Dettol-to-Lemsip group where he has been chief executive for seven years and where he has been employed since 1971.

Mr Sankey, who was paid £503,000 last year, is expected to receive about £900,000 compensation for the loss of his job. In a statement Reckitt & Colman said that the next phase of its strategy "requires the appointment of a new chief executive".

Shares in the company shot 50p higher to close at 870p on renewed speculation that the company could face a bid. Unilever, cash-rich after the sale of its speciality chemicals business to ICI and which is keen to build its stable of consumer brands, is seen as the most likely bidder.

Michael Turrell, director for global operations, has been made acting chief executive

with immediate effect. He may be confirmed in the job, although the company is also hiring headhunters in its quest for a permanent replacement. Mr Sankey will stay on the board for a two-month hand-over period.

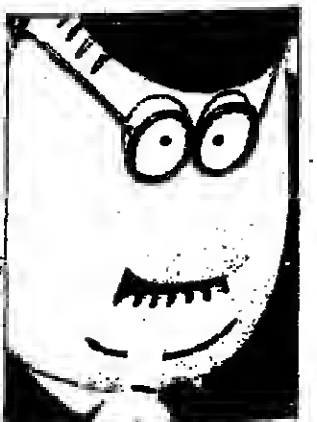
Reckitt & Colman issued a profits warning in November, complaining that trading results were below expectations because of problems in Asia and the US. Brokers have recently made further downgrades of their profit forecasts because of worries about sales of the company's products in Brazil.

Mr Sankey, 49, has thoroughly restructured the group during his time in charge, focusing on over-the-counter medicines and branded household goods. Reckitt said yesterday that its strategy remained unchanged.

Commentary, page 23

# Half a million ignore tax Hectoring

By CAROLINE MERRELL



Hector the tax inspector

MORE than half a million people could be fined up to a total of £50 million by the Inland Revenue after failing to file their tax returns by the end-of-year deadline at the weekend.

In total, nine million tax forms were due from taxpayers working under the new self-assessment rules. The Inland Revenue said yesterday that it had received only 8.2 million returns from this total. Last year, 1.1 million tax forms failed to reach the Inland Revenue's offices on time, and a total

of 820,000 people were fined. The revenue said yesterday that 300,000 of these tax forms were still outstanding.

Those who missed the deadline will face an automatic fine of up to £100, while those who missed last year's deadline, and still have not submitted the form, face paying another £100 penalty.

"Overall the results of the second year of self-assessment are encouraging and they show that both taxpayers and their advisers are becoming more familiar with the new system," said an Inland Revenue

spokesman. But although more taxpayers are hitting the deadlines, evidence from this year suggest many are still leaving it until the last minute, with one million taxpayers submitting their forms on Saturday or Sunday.

The 650,000 who failed to submit forms will be fined according to how much tax they owe. A spokesman said that only the critically ill would escape the fine. Those who owe less than £100 in tax would not have to pay the full penalty for the missed deadline. As well as the one-off penalty, any unpaid

tax would be subject to interest payments at a rate of 8.5 per cent on the outstanding tax.

A recent report from the Inland Revenue revealed that the total cost of introducing the self-assessment tax regime was about £800 million. The exercise involved a £60 million training programme to help staff in 600 offices get to grips with the new regime.

LINKS  
http://www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/tax/

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## ARM up on profits increase

Shares in ARM Holdings, the microprocessor designer floated at 800p last April, rose 100p yesterday to close at £18.25 after the company announced better than expected profits. Profits for the year to December 31 more than doubled to £9.4 million, from £4.5 million. Earnings per share were 12.5p (7.4p). There is no dividend. *Tempos, page 24*

## US bus buy

National Express has bought a second US school bus company. It is to pay £15 million for Robinson Bus Service, which runs 11 routes in Chicago, Detroit and Philadelphia and made £1.1 million profits on £14 million sales in its latest year. National paid £11.6 million for Crabtree-Harmon in Missouri four months ago.

## Staffware warning

Paul Fullagar and John O'Connell, chairman and chief executive of Staffware, an AIM-listed software company, yesterday saw their per share losses in a year reach £2.2 million and £15 million, respectively, as its shares fell 27 per cent on a profit warning blamed on rising marketing costs. Over 12 months, they have fallen from 945p to 190p.

## Debenhams sale

Terry Green, chief executive of Debenhams, has sold £109,950 worth of shares in the department store company said yesterday. The sale of 30,000 shares at 366p on Monday leaves him with 50,427 shares, a 0.013 per cent stake. Debenhams shares still rose yesterday from 350p to 379p on a recommendation upgrade from Merrill Lynch.

## DeVilbiss referral

Kim Howells, Competition Minister, has referred a proposed acquisition of DeVilbiss Medequip by Air Products and Chemicals to the Monopolies Commission after Office of Fair Trading advice on the market for oxygen concentrators in the UK. It is due to report by May 7.

## Radio venture

Kelvin MacKenzie, chief executive of Talk Radio, has linked up with Chris Evans, the broadcaster, and Clear Channel, a US media group, to bid for regional digital radio licences. Bids for the first such licence, for Greater London, must be made by May.

# 'Symbol of rebirth' for Ulster calls in receivers

By ADAM JONES

MACKIE INTERNATIONAL, the company once held up by President Clinton as a "symbol of Northern Ireland's rebirth", has called in the receivers, jeopardising about 310 jobs and £32 million of public money.

The West Belfast engineer was founded in the 1840s, making it one of the Province's oldest companies. It made machinery for the textiles industry but was trying desperately to diversify into castings and machine parts as clothmakers struggled.

Mackie was the setting for President Clinton's keynote speech during his visit to Northern Ireland in December 1995. He praised the co-operation of Catholic and Protestant workers on the shop floor.

He said Mackie had long been a symbol of world-class engineering: "The textile machines you make permit people to weave disparate threads into remarkable fabrics. That is now what you must do here in Northern Ireland."

Mackie's stock market history was turbulent, however. It listed in 1994 and its shares peaked at 159p in 1996. Its 1996 annual results had to be revised. What had been a £400,000 profit had to be changed to a £7.2 million loss. The executive chairman at the time, Paul Dougan, and the fi-

nance director, Shaun Harie, a former DeLorean Motor Company director, left the company. A £5 million rights issue then flopped in August 1997. The shares were suspended at 9p last October when it said it was close to making an acquisition. The company it was chasing turned out to be Shield, an engineer based in Leicester.

Shield was wanted for its order book but Mackie could not raise the necessary £14 million. A spokeswoman for Mackie said yesterday that it needed just £500,000 more to do the deal. However, it is thought that some of the bid would have been funded in shares.

Deloitte & Touche, the accountant, was called in as administrative receiver yesterday by Ulster Bank, a subsidiary of NatWest. The Deloitte team is headed by Roger Powdrill and Tom Keenan.

Mackie owes £18.3 million. Attempts to save the business are likely to centre on its newest foundry, which cost £15 million and opened in 1996. It is thought that foreign buyers will be approached. Since 1990, the Industrial Development Board of Northern Ireland has pumped £32 million into Mackie to keep it afloat.

Commentary, page 23



Sir Neville Simms says he is revealing Tarmac's value

## Chief agrees to split Tarmac

By FRASER NELSON

SIR NEVILLE SIMMS, chief executive of Tarmac, has agreed to split the company in two — bowing to shareholders who demanded action after its failed merger talks with the rival Aggregate Industries.

Tarmac's construction division, which is carrying out £1 billion of Private Finance Initiative work for the Government, is to be split from the heavy building materials division in the autumn.

City analysts believe that Sir Neville is preparing the remaining Tarmac for a merger, either as the dominant partner with Aggregate Industries or with another rival.

Sir Neville said: "The City will be able to see the true value of both businesses, and there will be no more stories about how Tarmac Construction is worth nothing. They will be able to merge or make partnerships without worrying about the other one."

Analysts believe that the construction division would need a heavy injection of capital to become independent.

Aggregate Industries, which six weeks ago broke off takeover talks, had meant to spin off Tarmac's construction division if the merger succeeded.

Tarmac Construction generates 57 per cent of group sales, but only 17 per cent of profits. Sir Neville said it may be sold and demerged simultaneously. The Tarmac name will stay with the building materials division. Demerger details will be given on March 16.

Tarmac shares rose 4½p to 75p yesterday.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## British Energy set to confound City

BRITISH ENERGY yesterday surprised the City with an upbeat forecast of its results, saying pre-tax profits would beat expectations at more than £270 million. Some analysts had pencilled in estimates of about £240 million compared with last year's profits of £191 million. Its shares climbed 27p to 723½p after the nuclear generator said it had boosted output by 3.9 per cent over the past year. It said it would exceed analysts' forecasts for the results — that are published in May — if inflation did not jump above 3 per cent and if there are no sudden shutdowns at its power stations.

The market is trying to predict British Energy's next significant move. It was beaten by Electricité de France in the bid battle for London Electricity but the company has made clear its wish to expand its generation by trying to buy coal-fired stations from PowerGen and National Power.

## Granada pay protest

GERRY ROBINSON, chairman of Granada, and other executive directors will face a "fat cats" protest today as they arrive for a shareholders meeting at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London. Broadcasting unions that have been asked to strike action throughout Granada Media plan to deliver bags full of artificial money to highlight what they see as the disparity between the 14 per cent pay rises of the executive directors and the staff pay award of 3.6 per cent.

## Lafarge rises 53%

LAFARGE GROUP, the building materials group that bought Redland in 1997, yesterday said that 1998 sales were up 53 per cent to £9.8 billion (£6.8 billion). Excluding results from Redland, the rise was 8 per cent. Sales posted by former Redland units over the whole year were £2.9 billion, an increase of 3 per cent on 1997 or a 1 per cent increase on the same reporting basis. Lafarge said that it saw a slight increase in business in Western Europe.

## RBS raises \$250m

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND has raised \$250 million (£156 million) in preference shares in US markets to bolster its capital base. The bank said the preference share issue would lift its tier 1 capital ratio by 0.3 percentage points from the 6.6 per cent reported with its year-end profits at the end of September. Its capital base was slightly diluted by its recent purchase of the remaining 23.5 per cent stake in Citicorp's US subsidiary, raising money in the US helps to balance its international books.

## ITG plans Net service

AN INTERNET service provider is in talks with retailers and media groups to launch rival services to Dixons's Preserver, Internet Technology Group, which has partnerships with telecoms groups such as Energis, WorldCom and Cable & Wireless, also reported maiden profits, turning a £2 million loss the previous year into a £55,000 pre-tax surplus for the 12 months to October 31. Sales were £11 million, up from £4 million, while earnings per share were 0.12p (6.61p loss).

## Caradon sells Terrain

CARADON, the building products group, has furthered its disposal programme with the sale of Terrain, its plastic pipes business, for £27 million. The sale was flagged last year by Jürgen Hintz, chief executive, who wants the group to focus on plumbing, electrical controls and printing personalised cheque books. Terrain made £1.2 million profit from revenues of £25.5 million last year. Caradon also wants to sell its US and UK doors and windows businesses and its UK steel lintels business.

## Arjo revenue falls

ARIO WIGGINS APPLETON, the paper group, said that revenue fell 3.6 per cent in the December quarter to £813.6 million. The company said that volumes were 2.8 per cent lower than in the same period a year earlier and that prices also dropped. This took revenue for 1998 to £3.18 billion, down 2.6 per cent. Ken Minton, chairman, said that a strategic committee had been created to determine growth prospects for the group's three divisions and how they should be split.

## Eurodis sales decline

EURODIS ELECTRON, the electronic component distributor, yesterday said that a weak UK market and slower growth in mainland Europe were to blame for falling sales. The group reported pre-tax profits of £3.4 million for the six months to November 30 (£3.6 million) from sales that fell to £146.3 million (£152.5 million). Earnings were down to 2.79p a share (3.44p), but the interim dividend of 2.15p was maintained. The shares, which were 185½p last May, yesterday fell 5½p to 67p.

## SOMI wins contract

AN AIM-LISTED sports advertising group backed by John Backwith, the property entrepreneur, said yesterday that it had signed up to advise the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) "on all aspects of its commercial activities". Sports & Outdoor Media International said that it would give advice on sponsorship rights and perimeter advertising hoardings at Test cricket grounds under a contract that is expected to generate £80 million for the ECB.

## Unigate buys Wessex

UNIGATE, the dairy company, has agreed to buy the doorstep milk delivery business of Wessex Dairies for £7 million in cash. The acquisition, dependent on approval from the Office of Fair Trading, includes 20 milk delivery depots serving more than 150,000 customers, mostly in the West of England, with annual turnover of £25 million. Chris Roberts, managing director of Unigate Dairies, said: "This acquisition again demonstrates our commitment to doorstep delivery."

## Edmonds mobile call

DAVID EDMONDS, the Director-General of Telecommunications, called on Britain's four mobile telephone operators to come up with clear information on the quality of their services after his own survey revealed wide variations in call success rates (Raymond Snoddy writes).

A survey by the regulator, which was carried out in December by independent consultants, revealed differing success rates that were dependent on geography and mode of transport.

The survey found that on four routes tested, Orange performed best

with an 89 per cent success rate, followed by Cellnet (79 per cent), One-2-One (78 per cent) and Vodafone (73 per cent). In the City of London all networks performed well, with Orange again coming top with a 98 per cent success rate.

Mr Edmonds said yesterday that more comprehensive data was now required. He gave warning that if the mobile operators did not start providing greater information for customers he would consider further use of his statutory powers to ensure it happened.

## Pakistan hits Hub

HUB POWER, a Pakistani power generator in which National Power has a 26 per cent stake, yesterday had its bank accounts frozen in a dramatic escalation of its long-running dispute with state authorities (Saeed Shah writes).

National Power has taken a hit of £25 million in its interim results as a result of losses at Hubco and Kot Addu, its other power project in Pakistan, with analysts predicting further decreases as the dispute surrounding its previously lucrative Pakistani investments drags on. The Pakistani Government has frozen

Hubco's bank accounts after it refused to pay a two billion rupee (£23.5 million) demand for withholding tax on shares issued over the past few years. Kurshid Hussain, chief executive of Hubco, says no such tax exists and that the company will appeal.

Islamabad accuses Hubco of corruption and overcharging customers, allegations that the company has denied.

National Power paid \$101 million (£61 million) for its Hubco holding, and it invested \$291 million for a 36 per cent stake in Kot Addu.

## BAT ruling overturned on appeal

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

A FLORIDA court has overturned a landmark anti-smoking ruling against British American Tobacco that had threatened to trigger a flood of costly claims.

The state appeals court has ruled that the case, in which the family of Roland Maddox, a smoker who died of cancer, won \$11 million damages from BAT last year, had been riddled with errors. It was found that the case had been heard by the wrong court and had made illegitimate use of BAT documents.

The Maddox family were recipients of the first million-dollar payout in a product liability case against a US tobacco company. The ruling was hailed as a breakthrough by anti-smoking campaigners. Thousands of other smokers and their families had hoped the case would set a precedent for further payouts to sufferers of tobacco-related illnesses.

Brown & Williamson, the BAT subsidiary that manufactures Lucky Strike cigarettes, said the volte face by the Florida courts was a "huge victory".

The overturning of the Maddox verdict comes after the collapse of several other cases against tobacco companies over the issue of smokers' health.

## American regulator attacks SB

By PAUL DURMAN

THE US Food and Drug Administration has severely criticised SmithKline Beecham for serious and persistent failures in hygiene standards at a Pennsylvania manufacturing plant.

In its strongly worded warning letter to Jan Leschly, America's medicines watchdog holds the SB chief executive personally responsible for the "significant deviations from Current Good Manufacturing Practices". It says: "As top management, the responsibility to ensure that all requirements of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and its associated regulations are met belongs to you."

The letter, sent last month, continues: "Failure to promptly take corrective action may result in regulatory action without further notice. Possible actions include seizure and/or injunction. Also, the Philadelphia District Office will recommend disapproval of any new applications listing your firm as the manufacturer of sterile drug products."

It is rare for a leading drugs group to receive an FDA warning letter. Shares in SB, which is hoping for rapid approval of its new diabetes drug, dropped 28½p to 819½p yesterday.

## Bank warns of gilt yield threat to OAPs

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

GILT YIELDS could fall to a record low of 2 per cent in the next few years, pushing many new pensioners into a life of poverty, according to a new report from Barclays Capital.

The investment bank believes demographic factors are starting to push down returns from all financial assets, including stocks and shares, as an increasing number of people begin to look for ways of saving for their retirement.

As financial returns slide people will have to put more money aside for their old age.

This could significantly reduce consumer spending and worsen the deflationary spiral in the economy, the bank's annual *Equity-Gilt Study* suggests. Barclays Capital believes that yields on government bonds will be particularly depressed as inflation continues to fall.

This is bad news for people approaching retirement for whom gilt yields are significant as they determine how much of a pension income they will get when they purchase an annuity from an insurance company. Gilt yields are currently at a postwar low of about 4 per cent, leaving new pensioners with half the income they could have received ten years ago.

Fortunately, the soaring value of gilts and bonds — which is responsible for the dramatic slide in their yields during the 1990s — means many new pensioners will have amassed much larger pensions funds than they might have expected. As a result they may be able to offset the fall in annuity rates.

## EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.27	2.29
Austria Sch	20.96	19.20
Belgium F	61.70	58.74
Canada \$	2.908	2.420
Denmark Kr	0.0652	0.1337
France F	11.36	10.49
Germany M	5.81	5.20
Italy L	9.36	9.20
Japan Yen	161.1	162.2
Netherlands Gld	3.60	3.60
Portugal Esc	3.14	2.52
Spain Ptas	166.37	166.37
Sweden Kr	10.46	10.46
Switzerland F	2.475	2.257
Turkey Liras	57.504	52.974
USA \$	1.785	1.495

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# The lifeblood of the economy



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Entrepreneurs provide the lifeblood of the economy. From small, energetic businesses can larger companies grow, creating the jobs essential to the country's prosperity. Big businesses, meanwhile, are either becoming even bigger, indulging in the latest round of mega-mergers in the hope that two sets of profits can be sustained on less than two sets of staff, or they are turning into smaller businesses themselves, subjected to enforced slimming regimes in the hope of sustaining long-term health.

The Times recognises the importance of the entrepreneurial spirit and today we announce the launch of an initiative to reward the best of Britain's entrepreneurs. The search will range widely, with regional finals leading to the selection of national winners in several different categories. And because the Entrepreneur of the Year programme is being led by Ernst & Young, there is an added international dimension. The ultimate British winner could find himself — or herself — an increasing number of entrepreneurs are female — at a conference in the US comparing notes with the winners of contests held in 20 different countries.

The chance to talk with others who are battling to build businesses is one that most entrepreneurs would appreciate, for they can find there a lonely existence. Politicians all agree that entrepreneurs are a force for good and say so, often and loudly. "We will

lead a crusade to develop in Britain the spirit of enterprise, so characteristic of the United States, so that we seize the new, big opportunities before us," declared Peter Mandelson before his abrupt departure from the Department of Trade and Industry. His sentiments could have been uttered by any of his Tory predecessors or by Stephen Byers, the current incumbent.

But actions to aid the lot of entrepreneurs flow less freely than the warm words. Red tape remains a suffocating problem, despite the establishment of various task forces promising to wield shears. The CBI recently begged for more cuts in the bureaucratic burdens that hamper business.

McKinsey, when set to work by the Chancellor to determine why British productivity lagged behind that of Germany and the US, cited red tape, including planning restrictions, as a significant drag. Yet, aided by Brussels, the Government seems intent on tying up business with more rules and regulation. While this is a nuisance for large firms, for smaller organisations, with only a handful of staff working flat out, it can be lethal. Small firms flourish only by being fast and flexible, responding to changes in the marketplace almost before

they have happened. The impositions of the Working Time Directive and the minimum wage can only make them less fleet of foot.

However, in our search for the Entrepreneur of the Year, we will seek out those who fail to be deterred by the difficulties of running a business. There are some great successes who have triumphed against the obstacles. Their stories will make encouraging reading.

## Brazil tries Sorosisation

Smash and grab raids by Western speculators have obliged governments in three continents and many languages to agree that if you cannot beat them, you had better join them. Only Malaysia is holding out but the internal antics of Mahathir Mohamed, its Prime Minister, ruined his case. In South America, both Brazil and Argentina have had to dance to the IMF tune. Even in their re-

sponses to the slump-bearing forces of markets, however, the rival giants are competing.

From the last time, Argentina was committed to a dollar-linked currency board system. It outflanked speculators trying to break that link by threatening to ditch its currency altogether and adopt the US dollar as its own.

Brazil's Fernando Cardoso, the John Major of Latin America, could not match that after seeing the fruits of his "hard real" policy disappear in the dust thrown up by departing foreign investors. Even devaluation had to be abandoned in favour of a freely sinking currency, down a third since mid-January.

So the world's eighth biggest economy has opted for the next best thing. Instead of dollarisation, try Sorosisation. Arnimio Fraga, an aide of the great hypocrite, is to be installed as head of Brazil's central bank.

He has credibility with the markets, they say. By sheer coincidence, George Soros was showing his caring face in Davos just

as Mr Fraga was receiving his charge from Pedro Malan, the Finance Minister. Mr Soros was rightly berating the vain attempt to shore up the real by measures of such austerity, including high interest rates, that depression was certain.

Now that the real is floating, interest rates are still running at 39 per cent. While the hard real policy lasted, it did a fine job of eliminating Brazil's notorious high inflation and raising real incomes for ordinary people. Brazil is still at risk of inflation returning.

The country does not, however, need any increase in austerity. The trailed doubling of interest rates would just bring a downward spiral of budgetary deficits, undoing hard-won fiscal gains.

Mr Soros knows this. Mr Malan knows this and presumably so does Mr Fraga. It will be interesting to see if they agree with Stanley Fischer, IMF number two, who is now in Brasilia to negotiate conditions for the release of the next instalment of the \$41.5 billion loan agreed last Novem-

ber to forestall devaluation. In Brazil, as almost everywhere, the top priority is to stop recession and get growth moving again, in part through monetary policy.

As it happens, Mr Fraga agrees with Argentina that there are too many currencies, but that will have to come later.

## No longer as hot as mustard

Vernon Sankey's departure from Reckitt & Colman after no less than 28 years and seven years as chief executive, took the market quite by surprise. Although he had to deliver a profits warning in November, and has been castigated for not managing expectations better, many other chief executives have found themselves in similar positions recently and have managed to hang on to their jobs if not all of their reputations.

Reckitt is certainly in a difficult bind. Its expansion in some emerging markets has left it vulnerable to the woes of their economies, while it has been caught out by US retailers' increasing insistence on just-in-time ordering. Even without Colman or Reckitt, it still has a fine portfolio of brands, which are undoubtedly

attractive to bigger multinational competitors. Reckitt's disadvantage is that while it is large, it is not so large that a group like Unilever or Sara Lee might not find it relatively easy to buy. Expectations that a deal is pending made the shares leap yesterday.

In the absence of a clear explanation, it does not take a very vivid imagination to conclude that Mr Sankey and his fellow directors did not see eye to eye on how Reckitt should manage its way out of its corner, alone or by merger, with a new strategy, or its current one. For the future, Mr Sankey may feel he does not have much to lose by going. After all, Barclays, BPB, EMI, Cable & Wireless, et al, are all on the look out for experienced chief executives, previous incumbents having failed to cut the mustard.

## False dawn

WORDS are cheap but reality is harsh. Three years ago, textile engineer Mackie International was hailed by Bill Clinton as the symbol of co-operation across the divides in the new Northern Ireland. Yesterday, receivers were called in. Let us hope that has none of the symbolism America's President offered so freely. No one makes a profit, any more than they can make a peaceful future, merely with good intentions. Mackie was in the wrong business, in the wrong place with the wrong management. Even with a true peace, Ulster will have to fight hard for prosperity.

## Weir shares surge on bid approach

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

SHARES of Weir Group, the pump manufacturer based in Glasgow, yesterday leapt 27 per cent to 294½p, after the company confirmed it had received an approach that could lead to a takeover bid.

Market speculation about the likely predator focused on a range of leading American engineering companies, including ITT Industries, Flowserve, IDEX, Ingersoll Dresser IDP and Tecton.

ITT is believed to have had a long-standing interest in Weir, which intensified in the wake of ITT's purchase in 1997 of Gould, one of the Scottish company's largest competitors.

Yesterday's speculation lifted Weir's market capitalisation to £587 million and dragged up the rest of the engineering sector in its wake.

The FTSE engineering sector index closed 4.9 per cent higher at 2,318.0 points compared with a rise of just 0.6 points in the FTSE 100 index to 6,013.0. Analysts said the engineering sector had been

largely ignored by investors who have been concentrating on more fashionable sectors such as telecoms.

Sandy Morris, an analyst with ABN Amro, said he believed any takeover suit would have to bid at least 350p a share for Weir to stand a chance of success. The shares, however, were last at those levels five years ago.

"Weir has not performed badly or let us down, but it is where it is because it has not shown the zip, sparkle or vision that the market demands," Mr Morris said.

Analysts said the relatively low price/earnings multiples applied to British engineering stocks made them highly vulnerable to their more expensive counterparts in America.

They said that, as the seventh-largest pumpmaker in the world, it is almost inevitable that Weir will become part of the consolidation underway in the industry.

Tempus, page 24

## Armitage Shanks goes to US

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

ONE of the most quintessential of English brands fell into foreign hands yesterday as the 190-year-old Armitage Shanks company was sold to the US group American Standard.

Five months after putting it on the market, Blue Circle, the building materials group, said it was selling Armitage Shanks to the owner of Ideal Standard, its main bathroom business rival, for £253 million.

The acquisition includes Ceramica Dolomite, Blue Circle's Italian bathroom fittings manufacturer and the combined operation will become Europe's largest bathroom business. Ideal is thought to have beaten competition from a number of European bidders including Sanitec, a division of Finland's Metra, and Keramik Laufen of Switzerland.

Roger Cooper, managing director of Ideal, said that it was too soon to comment on redundancy plans.

## Housing is recovering, says Crest

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

A STABLE housing market and an expanded portfolio helped to lift full-year profits of Crest Nicholson, the house-building and property group, by 37 per cent, to £28.1 million.

John Calcutt, chief executive, said that a surge in sales last month after an unusually quiet run-up to Christmas suggested that the housing market was in "recovery mode". He said: "Visitor levels are up, reservations are up."

Crest's average selling price rose by almost 20 per cent, to £117,800. Its land holding rose 27 per cent in 1998 to 17,253 plots. Its main 1998 acquisition was a site for 772 homes at Chigwell, Essex.

Sales for the year to October 31 rose 32 per cent to £465 million. Earnings per share rose to 16.6p, from 11.75p. A 3.25p final dividend makes 4.75p (3.75p).

Tempus, page 24

## Eurotunnel nets profit on debt

EUROTUNNEL, the Channel Tunnel operator, yesterday made an £89 million profit by taking advantage of the City's lack of confidence in its ability to repay its £7.2 billion debt mountain (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company spent £38 million buying £134 million of loan notes — using cash won from suing TML, the consortium that built the tunnel.

These loan notes changed hands at 26p for every £1 of its debt — a price that reflects fears that Eurotunnel's chances of defaulting are still high.

Shares of Eurotunnel added 4½p to 75½p yesterday, as analysts said the deal should reduce its interest payments by £1.3 million a year.

Eurotunnel was only able to buy back the loan notes because the money came directly from TML, which was collected in November after defects were found on freight trains.

The company is forbidden from spending its own cash-flow on buying loan notes under the debt for equity swap agreed with its banks in April last year.



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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 1999

**MICHAEL CLARK**

[illegible]



The World Economic Forum, described by one participant as a "dialogue between the haves and the have-nots", has been dominated by an attempt to analyse the implications of globalisation for the world's leading economies.

The air in this Swiss resort may be bracingly clear but the collective thinking of the world's leading CEOs is alarmingly limited. A faint air of unease hung vaporously over the meeting. Brazil and Russia were demons sometimes invoked, finance ministers urged each other to co-operate in bolstering world growth, everyone had a suggestion about how to improve the world financial architecture and Alan Greenspan and Bill Gates expressed concern about the catastrophic values accorded to Internet stocks.

And all this meaty stuff, however, CEOs were fixated on just one thing. Why weren't they Yahoo! or Amazon.com? Why couldn't they make that kind of money that quickly? How could they grab a slice of the action in Silicon Valley's gold rush? To

## Cleric's bomb shatters Davos fantasy



Janet Bush, a management consultant, one of the forum's appointed "Global Leaders for Tomorrow" and one of the authors of a report called *Wake Up, Europe!*, stood up. She said that Europe had big problems, amounting to what her report described as "an ossified, sclerotic economic system". Peter Sutherland, the moderator of the session, and one of the best-known europhiles, told her that she was being a bit harsh.

The ostrich tendencies of this annual gathering have something to do with the boyishly competitive egos that create successful CEOs. It's all about winners and losers. Last year, Davos was America's glory year. The Goldilocks economy was still romping ahead despite chaos in emerging markets. Asia was beyond the pale. Pre-euro Europe had sluggish growth, mass unemployment, rigid markets, old-fashioned ideas, a lack of entrepreneurial dynamism. This year, the conference chatter had it, is the year of Europe. The Continent still has sluggish growth, mass unemployment and rigid markets but it has the euro. Suddenly, Europe is deemed a roaring success.

In a meeting discussing prospects for Europe, the panelists expressed blanket optimism. Then, during the period for questions (invariably short in Davos), Fields Wicker-Murfin, a management consultant, one of the forum's appointed "Global Leaders for Tomorrow" and one of the authors of a report called *Wake Up, Europe!*, stood up. She said that Europe had big problems, amounting to what her report described as "an ossified, sclerotic economic system". Peter Sutherland, the moderator of the session, and one of the best-known europhiles, told her that she was being a bit harsh.

It took an elderly, bearded cleric to chuck a bomb into the Davos fantasy world and, given that the forum must have known something of his views, it is to its credit that His Holiness Bartholomew I, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, was invited to speak. His critique of globalisation was exonerating. Poverty and social exclusion, he said, "challenged the cheap language of global community".

Globalisation is, he said, a "graceless system that renders people surplus and abandons them if they cannot compete in the global economy". Globalisation, in the sense of travel, was the preserve of a tiny elite (many of them flown by helicopter into Davos). His statement made one want to stand up and roar with delight amid all the inane talk of globality, new paradigms and connectivity but it was an isolated moment of shocking realism.

One of the favourite topics in Davos, however, gives cause for hope. To the CEOs, the Internet is a potential commercial goldmine, turning people around the world into even more voracious consumers. What they don't see is the Internet's power to democratise and empower. It will increasingly connect and inform even those relatively cut off from the rest of the world in developing countries, and information, as the CEOs tell us, is power. Amartya Sen, last year's Nobel laureate for economics, was one voice who recognised its potential power for good. No famine, he said, had ever happened in a democracy with a free press, simply because the people had shared governments into preventing such human catastrophes.

## Battle joined for the best of British talent

Would-be tycoons might do well not to pay too much attention to Simon Woodruffe. The founder of the Yo!Sushi chain of restaurants may be a sparkling example of an entrepreneur, having started his business for the living room of his flat, but at yesterday's launch of the Entrepreneur of the Year award at the Yo!Sushi branch in Soho, he hinted that all entrepreneurs were slightly crazy.

"It needs a certain amount of self-denial to start your own business. If you had all the facts, you would not do it," Mr Woodruffe said. Crazy or not, the UK probably produces more entrepreneurs per head of population than any other country. From Richard Arkwright to Richard Branson, British entrepreneurs have created businesses and ideas that have dominated and changed the business world. Yet the British culture of sneering at success means that often the achievement of people who are willing to take the sort of risks that most of the population would shy away from, goes unrecognised. In an attempt to change that, the Entrepreneur of the Year award is being launched.

The award is part of an international competition which was started by Ernst & Young, the accountancy firm, in America 13 years ago. It now runs in 20 countries across five continents. The British element of this competition, being launched this year, is being co-sponsored by *The Times* and Citibank Private Bank as well as being supported by the Department of Trade and Industry, the British Chambers of Commerce, the Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors.

Announcing the award yesterday, David Wilkinson, E&Y's national head of entrepreneurial services, said: "The Entrepreneur of the Year awards celebrate the achievements of outstanding individuals who head growing, dynamic businesses and recognise the significant contribution they make to the economy. These awards will help bring entrepreneurs to the forefront, giving them the status and recognition they deserve."

At yesterday's launch, Michael Wills, the minister for small firms at the DTI, said that entrepreneurs were the

The Entrepreneur of the Year award aims to pit successful risk-takers against world competitors, writes Jason Nissé



Pursuit of excellence: from left, David Wilkinson, Michael Wills and Simon Woodruffe, at the launch of the award yesterday

lifeblood of the British economy. He said that the DTI wanted to support a programme celebrating people who "take those risks that are needed to build successful enterprises" and that is why the issue of promoting enterprise was a central theme of the Competitiveness White Paper issued last December.

Mr Wills added that it was important to foster entrepreneurial zeal among the young. "Why should our children not aspire to be the next James Dyson, Anita Roddick or Simon Woodruffe as much as they aspire to be the next Michael Owen or Shaznay Lewis?" Mr Wills said.

These comments will no doubt ring true with many entrepreneurs. E&Y asked MORI, the research agency, to survey 800 entrepreneurs and

found that 83 per cent of them thought their contribution to society is not recognised and 69 per cent of them wanted a society that "celebrates business heroes".

Only three out of ten thought that the current business climate favoured entrepreneurship. The survey also found that entrepreneurs were more positive about the economy than other business leaders — only 37 per cent of them think economic prospects are gloomy compared with 89 per cent of captains of industry, questioned in a recent MORI poll.

Simon Woodruffe admitted that he could not claim to be young — he is 44 — but he said that his aim was to create a worldwide brand with Yo!, though it boasts just four restaurants and a delivery service at the moment. "I hope one day that the Yo! brand will be to the dance generation what Virgin was to my generation — the baby boomers," Mr Woodruffe said. He said that successful entrepreneurs are often people who are not afraid of failure.

However, for those not afraid to enter, the Entrepreneur of the Year competition works like this. Entrepreneurs can either nominate themselves or be nominated. A full application form can be obtained either by sending off the short form on this page, calling either the Ernst & Young hotline on 0845 604 1012 or other of its regional hotlines 0845 601 1013/4/5/6/7. All applications have to be in by April 30.

The nominations will then go to five regional heats — Scotland, North, Central, South and London — where they will be judged by a panel of prominent members of the local business community. They will visit the businesses of the nominees to get a feeling for what they are achieving — this is not an award based on just statistics and past performance. The regional heats will deliver a series of winners. There will be a number of sub-



ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

## Late billing

THE Corporation of London has rejected my suggestion yesterday that the Bill to reform the electoral franchise could fail. Good! I insist that the reforms, which would give the vote to City businesses but reduce the influence of those living in the Square Mile, can still become law even after, as I predicted, they were opposed by three Labour MPs at the second hearing yesterday.

As the City branch of the Labour Party believes the Bill will now fail, I ring the Private Bill office at Westminster. In summary, the Bill, despite yes-

terday's opposition, can still go through to be debated by the House of Commons, probably some time in March.

But it then faces further hurdles, most notably a majority vote of at least 100 MPs at 10 o'clock one night, a time when honourable members tend to be thin on the ground. As it is a private Bill, the whips cannot be used.

So the Corporation has to lobby hard to ensure the necessary majority. "All of this is very much on our minds," my man says. "We're aiming to ensure there are going to be 100 MPs there."



"What! We've been fined? I didn't look too closely at the details"

A SPLENDID leader in the Financial Times yesterday. So splendid, indeed, that they ran it twice on the same page. I agonised over mentioning it — had luck, you know. But it was about rationalisation in the banking sector...

### Sharing

A SPLENDID leader ... I'm sorry, I don't know how that got there. Um, FEARS are growing for David Montgomery's £135 million cash pile from the Mirror Group after a former colleague recalls



an early foray by Monty into investment. On joining *Today* ten years ago, he inherited a portfolio of shares so readers could benefit from his skills.

Monty even put in £5,000 of his own money to start the fund off. A selection of stocks were bought, and the progress of the fund closely tracked. Coverage ended, for some reason, four months later — by which time the value of the portfolio had dipped below £3,000.

### Double bed

BY COINCIDENCE, the very day last week that I wrote about Eurotunnel's ridiculous tariffs a reader was trying to book a room through Stakis Hotels.

He was offered a double room at a special price of £39

per person. When he asked for a single, the price quoted was £99. So he offered to pay full price for a double and keep the £21 change. No, said the clerk, and they reserved the right at any time to check that the room was occupied by two people and if it was not, charge the higher price.

Needless to say, Stakis says this was all a terrible mistake. But our reader had a suggestion. Could he book a double and use the money saved to hire some local working girl to make up the numbers? It is contrary to normal hotel policy on such trade, admittedly, but it seemed a reasonable compromise.

He says the clerk didn't seem to find this terribly funny.

NAMES, names. Norsk Skog, a Norwegian paper company with interests in France and Austria, is merging with Hansol Paper of South Korea and Canada's Abitibi Consolidated. The three will re-emerge as Pan Asia Paper, which doesn't make much geographical sense until you consider the alternative. Try saying, I'm the man from Skog Hansol Abitibi with a straight face.

### Relapse

GEOFFREY ROBINSON, the former Paymaster General and once in charge of the Private Finance Initiative, has

stepped into a controversy over a PFI project in his Coventry constituency. Robinson probably thought he had heard the last of the dread initials, but he is objecting to plans for a new hospital on the outskirts.

Instead he prefers an existing city centre site, on the grounds that it would be more convenient for his constituents.

Robinson has even gone to Tarmac, which has a dedicated PFI unit, for a study confirming the viability of the city centre site. "We said in principle it would seem to be viable but it's not necessarily a preferred option," the company tells me. It hardly seems the most ringing of recommendations.

MARTIN WALLER  
citydiary@the-times.co.uk



Robinson: turned to Tarmac for support in his bid to keep city centre hospital

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Business address .....

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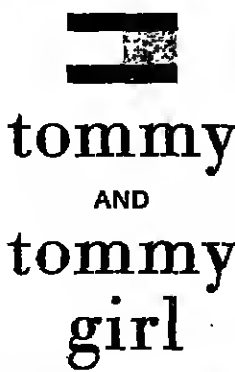
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**RADIO**  
A new boom  
sweeps clean  
at the Third  
PAGE 29

# THE TIMES ARTS



## Free steps to heaven

**NEW YORK THEATRE: Bob Fosse shines on Broadway, Athol Fugard off it. Edward Karam reports**

From the early 1950s to *Big Deal* in 1986, the director-choreographer Bob Fosse brought his distinctive style to the musical. Dancers in black, often flourishing bowler hats, abdominal thrusts, shoulder rolls, fingers played. All that is now on view in Fosse, the scorchingly kinetic revue at the Broadhurst Theatre, but co-directors Ann Reinking, Chet Walker and Richard Malby Jr have culled a great deal more as well.

One expects sex, of course. The clothes are typically tight and black, although Santo Loquasto's frocks for the taxi dancers in *Big Spender* are gaudy enough for Mardi Gras. From a nearly nude triple pas de deux from *All That Jazz* to the re-creation of *Mein Herr* from *Cabaret*, eroticism permeates. The latter is one of the few instances in which props (chairs) are used; another is the typically comic *Shoeshoe Joe* from *Damn Yankees*, in which baseball players twirl bats as if they were batons. But the most riveting moment in Fosse is the slowest, as

Andy Blankenhauer sings a mournful *Mr Bojangles* from *Dancin'*. A shabbily dressed Bojangles (Sergio Trujillo) shuffles poignantly in a spotlight while a younger spirit of himself (Desmond Richardson) leaps and whirls across the stage. It speaks volumes about age, memory and physical decay in a show that celebrates youth, strength and a prodigious talent.

**'Fosse celebrates youth, strength and talent'**

For theatregoers who require dialogue, two playwrights are revisiting the early 1950s. At the Manhattan Theatre Club, Athol Fugard's *The Captain's Tiger* is a semi-autobiographical fantasia woven around his attempt to write his first novel at the age of 20, while on a tramp steamer sailing around the world.

One real and one imagined companion join Fugard on his 1952 voyage. Donkeyman, Tony Todd's wary, towering Swahili, lends the boiler and serves as Fugard's sounding board. Meanwhile Betty, Fugard's mother and the heroine of his novel, materialises to argue about the plot. As directed



Abdominal thrusts. Shoulder rolls. Fingers played. All that is now on view in New York in the scorchingly kinetic revue celebrating the work of Bob Fosse

by Fugard and designer Susan Hillery the play has few surprises: certainly not that Felicity Jones's light-footed, charming Betty takes on a life of her own or that the ship hits the doldrums just as Fugard faces writer's block.

Although the presence of the playwright, now 66, adds resonance (he has announced it is

his last appearance as a performer), *The Captain's Tiger* is of more intellectual than emotional interest.

Much more satisfying is A.R. Gurney's *Far East* at Lincoln Centre. It is 1954, a family friend and former *Voice of America* broadcaster, is determined to draw him into the expatriate community. Gurney's interest is more about breaking free of inhibi-

tions than miscegenation, although Sparky intends to settle in multiracial Hawaii, "the America of the future". The struggles of his WASP characters to break their bonds lead to various betrayals. Bill Smirnovich's gruff captain has ties to an ex-girlfriend, while his wife Julia shares a repressed cha-cha with Sparky.

Director Daniel Sullivan has staged the play with a sense of sweet melancholy, aided by Dan Moses Schreier's original music and sound, such as the crack of tyrosyl clappers, borrowed from Kabuki, to punctuate scenes, and the use of period songs, particularly *You Belong to Me*, to evoke feelings of regret.

made for a dismal Rheingold last March. For *Die Walküre*, in the De Montfort Hall, Leicester, on Saturday night, however, they brought in a professional orchestra (an expanded Manchester Camerata, calling it itself the Camerata Wagner Orchestra), put it under the direction of David Syrus who, as head of music at the Royal Opera House, has worked on *The Ring* for close on three decades, and engaged the astute Gary Kahn to semi-stage it. The result occupied an uncomfortable hinterland between concert performance and full staging, but if one could accept the premise, the rewards were considerable.

## Wagner done proud

A production of Wagner's *Ring of the Nibelung* by a company called the Mastersingers Ltd and supported by the Wagner Society sounds as if it should have a note of authority. The founders of the Mastersingers are Paul Crook and Malcolm Rivers, veterans of the 1970s ENO *Ring* under Reginald Goodall, and their project brings together what they describe as "other stalwarts from *Ring* cycles all over the world" with new young Wagner singers. So far, so good.

As Crook and Rivers have made abundantly plain, however, they hanker after anti-liturgical productions that call a spear a spear. The composer's detailed stage directions, wistfully recalled by Crook in his programme notes, are of limited use more than a century later anyway: on a shoestring budget, they are meaningless. A vacuous conception, coupled with an amateur orchestra,



made for a dismal Rheingold last March.

For *Die Walküre*, in the De Montfort Hall, Leicester, on Saturday night, however, they brought in a professional orchestra (an expanded Manchester Camerata, calling it itself the Camerata Wagner Orchestra), put it under the direction of David Syrus who, as head of music at the Royal Opera House, has worked on *The Ring* for close on three decades, and engaged the astute Gary Kahn to semi-stage it. The result occupied an uncomfortable hinterland between concert performance and full staging, but if one could accept the premise, the rewards were considerable.

The big draw was that other great veteran of Goodall's *Ring*, Alberto Remedios. At the age of 63, his voice has inevitably lost a little of its bloom and flexibility, but none of its power, and it was a joy to hear again that ideal blend of heroic and lyrical allure. Another ENO stalwart, Neil Howett, took the role of Wotan with magisterial timbre and commanding presence.

The Brünnhilde of Christine Teare - honeyed in tone, assured in style, and passionate in nature - is definitely one to watch. Tamsin Dives was impressive and moving as Siegfried, while Rebecca de Font Davies made a formidable Fricka. John Cunningham was a fine Hunding, and a strong team of Valkyries included a couple of the Wagner Society's Bayreuth Bursary winners.

Given the financial constraints on rehearsal time, Syrus performed miracles with the orchestra. Yes, there were fluffed entries, missing chords and poor balances, but there was some wonderful playing in between. Act I lacked coherence and drive, but the second and especially the third acts were consistently satisfying, occasionally electrifying. Kahn's staging, though vestigial, was intelligent.

**BARRY MILLINGTON**

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	£2,000 to £2,499	£250 £188 £125
	£2,500 to £2,999	£300 £225 £150
	£3,000 to £3,499	£350 £263 £175
	£3,500 to £3,999	£400 £300 £200
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Luke Clancy on the eclectic delights of Limerick's Unfringed Festival

## Cherry-picked cream

When is a fringe not a fringe? When its shows have been carefully pruned away from a mainstream festival and given a little space all of their own. That at least is the theory behind Limerick's Unfringed Festival, for which the city's Belltable Arts Centre swooped on the Dublin Fringe and carried off some of the best shows.

This year Unfringed threw its net a little wider, encouraging one of the Edinburgh Fringe's successes, Ursula Martinez, to overfly Dublin and make her Irish debut in Limerick. A family O'ouling softpeds its title's pun, but the star still gets around to asking her parents what they think of her being a lesbian before deciding that the only way to get the right answer is to script her parents' responses.

A sort of new-millennium Joyce Grenfell, for whom clumsy preparation and an unerring comic sense, Martinez just can't help leaving her audience with big, nervous smiles. She toys with them, asking them to assess whether this is a scripted performance by two older hyper-naturalistic actors working in conjunction with a younger writer/director, or if

the light-hearted bickering, halting reminiscences and "live satellite" link-up are just what they seem to be.

The result is a kind of live version of the kind of video and performance work that made Janine Antoni and Gillian Wearing famous, but with the theatrical context adding a level of intimacy, of involvement, which pushes the whole documentary notion in a highly productive direction.

As the title of Jim Cartwright's *I Licked a Stag's Deodorant* suggests, Glasgow's contribution to Unfringed does not share Martinez's interest in delicate nuance and fugitive meaning. This dark and dourly lit two-handed crawl around the kind of places in which Irvine Welsh has already relieved himself, and finds that life as a slightly disturbed hobo, or as a crack-addicted prostitute, is not very much fun.

Nik Wardzynski, as the hobo, is grimly funny, while Cora Bisset, as the hooker whose drug habit always takes precedence over her heart of gold, prowls the audience, offering every line like an invitation to a brawl. Corn Exchange's Carshaw, which was seen in Dublin out-

doors in the comparatively tranquil setting of the pedestrianised Meetinghouse Square, transferred to Limerick's main street, where the cars that make up its set were quickly lost in the rows of other parked vehicles. In the show, four separate 15-minute plays are performed three times a night in four separate cars, to audiences of not more than three people per car. The result is an extraordinary dramatic style, in which the intense intimacy of the setting leads to a fresh and even unnerving theatrical experience.

Meanwhile, as Corn Exchange did its job while rooted to car seats, members of Kaos Theatre Company took things to the opposite extreme, writhing along the stage, rising up to clamber over the flats, and generally patrolling the theatre like a caged of hyperactive chimpanzees.

The Kaos Master and Margarita is an intensely physical, frequently acrobatic version of Mikhail Bulgakov's novel, in which brains, biceps and powerful abdominal muscles are all pressed into the service of a story of love, black magic and literary infighting.

### GREAT BRITISH HOPES

## Rising stars in the arts firmament CHARLES HUMPHRIES

Age: 29.  
Profession: Counter-tenor.

Why the falsetto voice? Humphries fell into singing after aged 13 at Hursley College, simply because there were no others in the choir. Meanwhile the early music movement was revving up and finding himself immersed in Baroque music, Humphries started singing lessons in earnest with a counter-tenor lay clerk at King's College, Cambridge.

Teachers and mentors? Humphries worked with Charles Bren for eight years, and also with James Bowman and Michael Chance. From 1989 to 1993 he was on

the performance course at the Royal Academy of Music.

First work: "All those Sunday mornings" - two years at Westminster Abbey as a contracted deputy, and singing at almost every major London church.

First break: With Paul McCreech and the Gabrieli Consort in Handel's *Saul* at the Covent Garden Festival. "I had so little to sing, I was sitting in the auditorium trying desperately not to nod off! But it led to roles in McCreech's great Baroque extravaganzas, such as the reconstruction of Vespers in Venice, etc. Humphries also works with the King's Con-



sort, the Monteverdi Choir and the English Concert.

Not forgetting Kontrabande: This witty named tiny ensemble was formed by Humphries in summer 1997 to play repertoire / wanted to perform, and with just one instrument to a part. They started with Bach Cantatas.

scaled down to chamber-musical proportions, and the critics liked it - so much so that after a Kontrabande gig at the Wigmore Hall last month the *Times* reviewer raved about Humphries' "exceptional talent" and his "naturally beautiful voice".

Future plans: Possibly an English programme of Purcell and Boyce for the South Bank in the autumn, and a return to the Wigmore Hall.

Any recordings? Not yet, but Chandos, Chaconne and Hyperion have expressed an interest in the Bach Cantatas.

Any ventures outside the Baroque? "I did get thrown into a contemporary opera by a jazz composer in Copenhagen, called *A Chinese Compass*. It was hard work, and I wouldn't make a habit of it - but there are further performances in September."

**HILARY FINCH**

**2 Feb - 27 Mar**  
**Talk of the City**  
REMY MULLIN

**RSC**

**FREE ON SATURDAY, PART 1 OF FOUR CORNERS - THE FOUR-WEEK TRAVEL GUIDE**



Roger Wright, Radio 3's new Controller, tells Richard Morrison that he wants his network to open a window on to the wider arts and music world

# Live and lively at the new Radio 3

Roger Wright doesn't look like a man prone to bouts of gloom. But if he does succumb he might take comfort from the words of his predecessor, Nicholas Kenyon: "Always remember, the great thing about being Controller of Radio 3 is that you can't win."

That's true. Depending on which episode he plucks from his postbag, Wright will be told that his network is too elitist or too populist, too chatty or too stuffy, indigestibly high-brow or slithering dumbly into the gutter.

As for his BBC bosses, they may nod benignly now when he tells them that Radio 3 is all about quality, quality and quality, and not about such trivial matters as a ratings war with Classic FM. But a year down the line, when the audience gap between Radio 3

and Concert Orchestra, left with free time on its hands, could then use its subsidised advantages to outbid the independent London orchestras for commercial engagements — and, in Wright's words, "destabilise the external market".

Wright's deal not only convinced the BBC's governors to continue picking up the hefty tab for five house orchestras and a full-time professional chorus. It also probably tipped the scales in his favour when Radio 3's top job fell vacant last summer. Wright's main challenge came from an unshamed populist, the Decca record executive Roger Lewis, and the choice between them seemed to epitomise an ideological tussle within the BBC between quality and ratings, public-broadcasting obligations and global ambitions. Was that how Wright saw it?

"All I can say is that I started a view about the sort of network I would feel comfortable running, and that I have not had to compromise on any of the things I said then. The fact that I got the job means, I suppose, that these were the things that the BBC top management wanted for Radio 3 too."

Bizarrely, this turned out to be only the first skirmish in the "Battle of the Rogers". For on the very day that Wright's appointment was announced, Lewis accepted the job of running Classic FM. So it is hand-to-hand combat now? Not according to Wright. Following the usual Radio 3 line, he won't admit that the two stations are even on the same battlefield.

His network is "not in the business of competing with Classic FM", he claims. "And I am certainly not looking over my shoulder and asking myself: 'If we were more like them, would we get their audience?' The first priority is to get our own music policy right, and the right balance of speech and music that will draw listeners into a world of ideas in an entertaining way. Once we have done that we can think about getting it to as many people as possible. If we do it the other way round we are on a downward spiral."

Yesterday he offered a glimpse of what those fine words mean in practice, unveiling a new look to the morning schedule that dumps such un-



Roger Wright in the foyer of Broadcasting House: "It is not so much the fact that people aren't listening that worries me; it is the realisation that they don't even know it is there"

Week and Sound Stories to make space for a daily 90-minute transmission of live or specially recorded performance at 11.30am. "Yes, people might cough, there might be split notes, or the programme might overrun," he says. "But the message we have to get across is that live broadcasts are so much more interesting than simply playing CDs."

If Wright has a big idea for Radio 3, this is it. He perceives that for much of the time Classic FM does little except play CDs, and he wants Radio 3 to differentiate itself by relaying the most exciting events from the wider arts world. He promises far more broadcasts from Edinburgh, Cheltenham and the big European festivals this summer, and more BBC mini-festivals ("We must utilise the musical resources that only we

have"), in addition to the immensely popular Proms. Nor will the outside links only be musical. Wright is "doing deals with places like the Almeida" to bring the most talked-about London theatre productions to Radio 3. "I really want to get the message across about drama," he says. "When I tell people that I run the network that I broadcast Hare's *Via Dolorosa*,

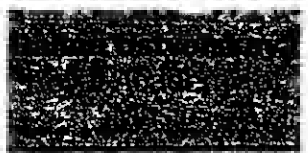
Harriet Walter in *Hedda Gabler*, Peter Hall's *Major Barbara*, Shakespeare plays and the Troy trilogy, they usually say: 'Goodness, when is that festival coming on?' I reply: 'That was the past six weeks on Radio 3'. It's not so much the fact that people aren't listening that worries me; it's the realisation that they don't even know it's there."

He has already saved the useful magazine programme *Music Matters* from the chop. Elsewhere, he promises less banter and more music on the breakfast programme *On Air*, and yet another tinkering with the Saturday morning *CD Review*, revamped to general dis-

may last year. "Hardly a day goes by when my postbag does not remind me of these issues," he says. Ah, the famous postbag! Its contradictory, bad-tempered contents may come to infuriate Wright, but they should thrill him as well. Radio 3's listeners may not be legion, but they care passionately about their station — and they will defend to their last breath the old-fashioned notion of a music network that repays serious listening. Good for them. In Wright they may have a kindred spirit and a doughy champion.

## Noisy world of faith

Shostakovich was besotted with her. "It is not I," he commented to his pupil, "who have influenced you, but you me." Schnittke and James MacMillan revere her. George Benjamin finds her music totally impossible. The reclusive, St Petersburg-enclosed composer Galina Ustvolskaya celebrates her 80th birthday this summer, and the Royal Academy of Music opened a rare door into her world and her mind in its en-



terprising festival of Russian music last week. It was a noisy place to be. Imagine the four syllables of the words "Dies irae" constantly hammered and thwacked out at polarised pitches, their beat repeated, permuted, re-

peated again, sometimes on a monotonous, sometimes within a cluster, sometimes in the melodic intervals of the unquiet spirit of a fragment of Russian chant. Imagine mallets colliding with bruising church bells in a world of fearful whisperings and relentless hammerings on the mind. Imagine a dysfunctional music born of a dysfunctional time, and deaf to all ears but its own. This is Galina Ustvolskaya.

The students of the RAM, conducted by John Carewe, presented the UK premiere of her Symphony No 2, *True and eternal bliss*, by name reflects the claustrophobically religious theatre of Ustvolskaya's mind: this symphony, like the two which follow it, sets an apocalyptic text by the aptly named medieval German writer Hermannus Contractus. One of the Academy's instrumental students, Evgeny Chebykin, was on hand to recite it, cupping and opening his hands to call forth the repeated word "Ghospodii" ("O, Lord!"), for all the world like a human ram's horn.

His plaintive voice rang out over the piano's striding chords, the loud thracks of the bass drum, a tuba whose single note was sustained through a searing crescendo, before a little dotted rhythm was squeezed out of the trumpet's muted mouth, and flutes and oboes led the still pounding syllables to a dying fall.

We also heard Ustvolskaya's 15-minute Third Symphony, *Jesu Messiah*, *Save Us* for six oboes, five trumpets, one trombone, three tubas, three drums, piano, five double-basses and reciting voice. This was followed by the ten-minute Fifth Symphony, finished in 1990, and offering a more distilled "setting" of the Lord's Prayer. A similar instrumental line-up is joined here by the beating of a specially made plywood cube, already heard to ominous-inducing effect in the earlier *Compositio* 2. Amen.

HILARY FINCH

## Theories of evolution

Even if we have to accept that our century will end before its music is truly appreciated, it is always good to see people resisting the inevitable. This all-Boulez programme drew a sizeable, enthusiastic Festival Hall audience, with the musicians relishing every note — well, a little tension showed on their faces during the opening work — and dispatching some of the most complex scores with apparent ease in short, another remarkable concert by the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Boulez has remained consistently true to himself, in his words "transforming those rules which have become nothing more nor less than the conventions of an established swindle", but he has mellowed over time and is now less likely to be found throwing musical hand grenades. As a living artist, he has created living pieces which constantly revisit themselves: all four scores in this first event of the BBC's *Boulez Portrait* were reworkings of earlier material.



A mellow Pierre Boulez reworking earlier material

None has evolved further than *Le visage nuptial*. For its lushness and approachability it is his equivalent of Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder*. In five



CONCERTS

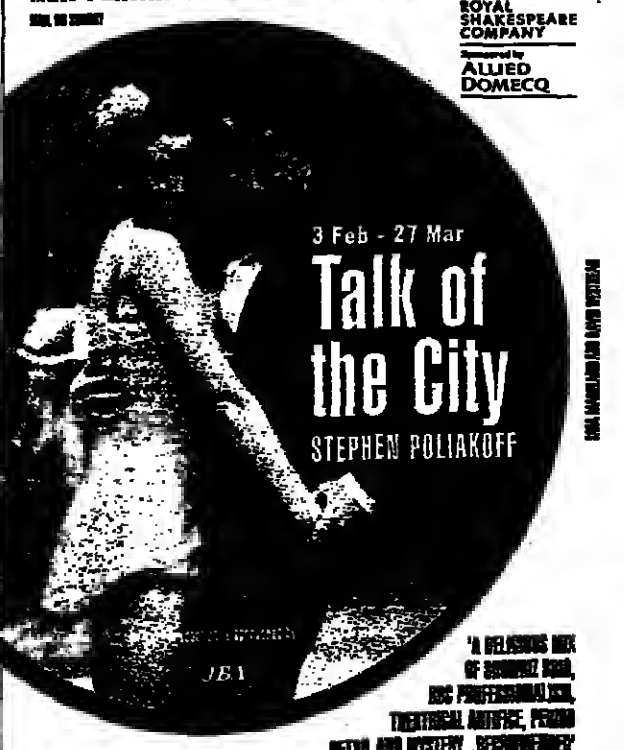
movements, all settings of René Char's poetry, it calls for a gigantic orchestra, women's voices (the excellent BBC Singers), soprano and mezzo soloists. Andrew Davis wielded his forces impressively, especially in the big central movement that gives the work its title, capturing the broad flow and the palpating detail. Christine Schäfer and Susan Parry were well-matched soloists. All were alive to the way poetry and music seemingly evaporate at the end.

As befits Boulez's old band — he was chief conductor during the 1970s — the BBCSO played all the music with instinctive understanding. *Eclat/Multiples* progressed from its opening piano cadenza, by turns angry and tender, towards increasingly exotic sounds: tuned percussion are ultimately joined by winds and no fewer than ten violas for the "multiple reflections" implied in the title. By the mesmerising end, these reflections are more like ripples broadening out in a great celebration of sound. But, like many celebrations, this one goes on a little too long.

Two shorter items completed the concert. *cummings ist der dichter* features music as fragmented as the poetry, but in spite of some surprises in the choral writing the work does not have the blazing individuality of Boulez's best scores. By contrast, *Notations 1-IV* are a series of short but massively orchestrated soundscapes that, moving from a languid uncoiling of themes to explosive vigour, brought the evening to an arresting close.

JOHN ALLISON

'STEPHEN POLIAKOFF'S ABSORBING NEW PLAY...DELIGHTFUL...POWERFUL'



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## LISTINGS

Poliakoff takes on the BBC

## RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargreaves

## LONDON

**TALK OF THE CITY:** Stephen Poliakoff's flawed yet fascinating play about BBC censoring in the 1930s. With David Westhead and a charismatic Angus Wright. Young Vic (0171-626 8553). Preview from tonight, 7.15pm. (S)

**FRENCH CONNECTION:** The London Sinfonietta commemorates the late Gerard Grisey in a concert featuring the world premiere of the French composer's last work, completed a few weeks before he untimely death last November. This is framed by Wolfgang Rihm's *Geographie* for and Pierre Boulez's *Sur Incises*. Queen Elizabeth Hall (0171-680 4242). Tonight, 7.45pm. (S)

**FOURPLAY:** Post-Modern bedroom farce by Spanish dramatist Sergi Belbel. Hans Peter Haller directs for Marmoth productions. Lyric Studio (0181-741 5701/2311). Opens tonight, 8pm. (S)

## ELSEWHERE

**BIRMINGHAM:** The virtuoso Swedish trumpeter Håkan Hardenberger joins the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Zimmermann's imaginative Trumpet Concerto. Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

**CRUISE:** In Jonathan Harvey's new play, Hushabye Mountain, dead Danny enjoys the company of Judy.



Håkan Hardenberger plays in Birmingham

Garland in Heaven while his boyfriend on Earth copes with the hole in his life. Paul Miller directs a touring production. Lyceum (01273 537333). Preview tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

**NOTTINGHAM:** Mary Heger and Christopher Funnell continue to meet at the head of Opera North's fine cast in Martin Dunne's production of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*. Superbly conducted by David Charles Abell. Revival director, Mark Tinker. Theatre Royal (0115 950-5555). Tonight and Friday, 7.15pm. (S)

## NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London  
House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

**THE FOREST:** Alan Ayckbourn adapts Ostrovsky's sardonic 1870 comedy, with Michael Feast's impoverished actor trying to impress his rich aunt (Frances de la Tour). Lyttelton (0171-452 3000). (S)

**LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EUNUCHS:** Ewan McGregor in the title role of a sentimentalised revival of David Hare's play about a student's failed marriage. Comedy (0171-369 1731). (S)

**OKLAHOMA!** National Theatre cast includes Maureen Lipman in transfer of Trevor Nunn's Rodgers and Hammerstein. Lyceum (0171-416 8081). (S)

**RICHARD III:** Robert Lindsay puts on the jump for Brian Mews's RSC production from Stratford. Savoy (0171-636 8888). (S)

**MEASURE FOR MEASURE:** Stephen Boer superb as Angelo, and Clara Holman pretty good as Isabella, in Michael Boyd's production of Shakespeare's most awkward play. Barbican (0171-638 8891). (S)

**THE STREET OF CROCODILES:** Return to Theatre du Complicité's inventive staging of Bruno Schuler's recollections of pre-Nazi Poland. Queens (0171-494 5041). (S)

**VASSA:** Sheila Hancock heads a terrific cast, playing the family matriarch in Gorky's strong drama. Howard Davies directs a new version for the Almeida season. Albany (0171-369 1730). (S)

**SPIRIT WARS:** David Lowe's excellent first play about the atrocities of reproduction returns for two weeks. Orange Tree (0181-440 3633). (S)

## FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

## NEW RELEASES

**SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15):** Pippa Young about the struggling, late Victorian Shakespeare. A cracking script by Mark Monaghan and Tom Stoppard. Gwyneth Paltrow leads the cast. Domestic production. Music. John Madden directs. (S)

**STEPHENSON (12):** Squidgy director movie with John Roberts as the new woman in Ed Harris's life, and Susan Sarandon as the temptress. A love story. The two spoilsports, John Malkovich and Ian McKellen, give it a high Kurosawa rating. (S)

## CURRENT

**HILARY AND JACKIE (15):** Arund Tucker's controversial biopic about the late comedienne du jour with Emily Watson and Rachel Griffiths. (S)

**PRACTICAL MAGIC (12):** Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman star as witches in a gothic soap about sisters with fatal attraction. Too sweet to digest. Griffin Dunne directs. (S)

**BULWORTH (18):** Warren Beatty's dishevelled senator suddenly discovers a taste for taking ugly ladies. A wonderful new comic spin on political manipulation and mendacity. Beatty produces, stars and directs. (S)

**THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18):** Christian Slater plays a 15-year-old who stiches up her gay step-brother by sleeping his boyfriend and high-tailing it to LA. A blistering comedy on political correctness. Written and directed by Dan Roos. (S)

**LITTLE VOICE (15):** Mark Horman's wonderful version of John Carver's stage hit. Jane Horrocks sings glorious covers of torch song divas. Michael Caine, Ewan McGregor, Brenda Blethyn and Jim Broadbent gleaze around in the foreground. (S)

**VERY BAD THINGS (18):** Peter Berg's macabre comedy thriller satirises buddy movies and smug suburban lifestyles by chipping up hell the cast. Domestic production. From Christian Slater and Cameron Diaz. (S)

**TWO GIRLS AND A GUY (15):** Robert Downey Jr plays a charming creep who stings along Melissa Wagner and Heather Graham. James Toback's chamber piece on sexual rivalry promptly falls on its sword when both girls fall to crush him after he's been exposed. (S)

## DANCE

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## THEATRES

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**CHICAGO:** The Musical. Music: Hughson. Lyrics: John Meehan. (S)

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**ALHAMBRA AT THE ALBERT:** 0171 389 1764/4444. Their early 19th-century London Theatre with a marvellous play by Tony's leading comedy. (S)

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**WEEKS ONLY:** Mon-Sat 7.30pm. Thu & Sat 8pm. (S)

## MUSIC: John

Allison talks to the conductor Riccardo Chailly about his work in Amsterdam

Music may have its Americans in Paris and, for all we know, an Italian girl or two in Algiers, but until ten years ago the idea of an Italian in Amsterdam might have sounded surprising. Enter Riccardo Chailly, who, with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, has spent the past decade building one of the most successful and celebrated musical partnerships anywhere: in spite of this fiery conductor's early difficulties with a conservative audience and a great orchestra steeped in tradition, the synthesis now could not be more natural.

Not surprisingly, everyone wants to hear them. Tomorrow, en route to America, they stop off at the Festival Hall for the second concert of their recently established South Lucca residency, which offers lucky Londoners the chance to hear them three times a season. The programme - Brahms's Second Symphony, his Violin Concerto with Vadim Repln, and Schoenberg's Five Orchestral Pieces - is a typically solid Concertgebouw affair. "I want the residency to be a reflection of our daily life," says Chailly. "That means a lot of the great Romantic composers, but in the future I hope to challenge audiences more, perhaps with Messiaen or Varèse."

Challenging perceptions of music is what Chailly is all about, though the gentlemanly 45-year-old is not a confrontational figure. Patient persuasion is his way. Though he travels a lot as guest conductor, and enjoys close ties with the Chicago, Philadelphia and London Symphonies, he has a hands-on approach to his post in Amsterdam. He and his wife have made a home there and learnt to speak Dutch. "It may be an old-fashioned view, but I believe the job of chief conductor is a full-time commitment. But you have to make strategic choices, because there is the danger of saturating an institution with your presence."

Has the Concertgebouw's history been an inspiration or a deadweight? "Well, it can be both, but it would be wrong to ignore it. The chief conductor of this orchestra should never ignore the German Romantic side or the St. Matthew Passion tradition here. So I've remained aware of the past



Riccardo Chailly: "It was the Rembrandt of orchestras, and I've introduced some Van Gogh"

while going my own way. Now we've got a very settled feeling. "Recently, to mark my tenth anniversary here and the orchestra's 110th birthday, a newspaper printed what the Dutch like and I personally hate - an 'evaluation'. It means you all go back to school to be told this was good, this was bad, this was medium - what a bore! I don't like these things, not because I'm afraid of the past, but because I've always looked forwards."

Such an outlook helped him over the shock of his Concertgebouw debut, when he conducted a programme of contemporary Italian composers. "The hall was almost empty, and I hadn't been warned, I was furious at the waste, ashamed for the city when they had a dream orchestra playing modern music. But I realised that bridges would have to be built, doors opened. The Concertgebouw was regarded as the Rembrandt of orchestras, and now I've introduced some Van Gogh."

Mondrian, too, he might have added. His projects have included the promotion of modern Dutch music, and the

recording for Decca of the complete works of Varèse. This season the orchestra has a new "A-series", standing for Adventures and Avant-garde. Some rehearsals are open to the public at lunchtime, when Chailly has been able to explain the more difficult music. "Concerts of new music shouldn't be seen as a ghetto for intellectuals - we're not intellectuals, we're musicians who are in love with what we do. And if we stick with the boring formulas of concert-giving just to please some of the public today, we'll be looking at empty halls tomorrow."

Some of his more serious-minded players needed convincing. Look at their new *Shostakovich Film Album*, featuring some unfamiliar scores, is a reminder of the stir caused by the first release in the series, the *Jazz Album* - in spite of the orchestra's reputation for Shostakovich's music. "It provoked all sorts of misgivings and some musicians regretted having done it. But in the end the players understood that they had not lost credibility. The Concertgebouw hall has a deeply conservative image, but I always point out that it is the only place I heard B.B. King live."

Chailly admits that the response now from both orchestra and audience has surpassed his expectations, so much so that he regards the Concertgebouw as "a kind of isolated paradise". There is no where he would like to move on to at present, and he is certainly not about to go back to his operatic roots.

"Because I'm not yet a maestro," he decided to reduce my opera work. There is the guarantee of a clash there - with the producer or the cast." Fortunately, Chailly names a few singers he counts as exceptions and has some operatic plans up his sleeve. The other place where he will be found regularly over the next few years is Milan, as music director of the recently founded Orchestra Giuseppe Verdi. "It's an adventure. Whereas in Amsterdam we're continuing a tradition, with these young players there's a tradition to be formed. The potential is very strong, and I want to forge something of my own while I've still got the energy to work, work and work."

Chailly conducts the Concertgebouw Orchestra at the Festival Hall tomorrow at 7.30pm (0171-460 4242). The Shostakovich Film Album is out next week on Decca.

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## All alone and dancing in the dark

Continuing our Penguin classical CDs offer, Kazuo Ishiguro explains how his search for the saddest music brought him to Chopin

Not long ago, I went through a phase of asking people: "What do you consider the saddest music in the world?" This inquiry, prompted initially by a film project I was researching, aroused surprisingly passionate responses and quickly took on its own momentum. Recordings arrived in the post, total strangers phoned saying they'd heard of my quest and believed they could help. I was provided with adagios from numerous symphonies, Blind Lemon Jefferson singing about matches, Kathleen Ferrier's *Blow The Wind Southerly*: I was pointed towards Sufi music, Gregorian chants, Lisbon fados.

For two days I sat in a room at London's National Sound Archive while a helpful archivist brought me recording after recording of various ethnic folk musics he considered might be contenders. There was hardly a record that did not have behind it some long tragic history of suffering, that had not been shaped out of oppression, exile, war, famine. And yet I found myself, after the opening few seconds of each offering, shaking my head and saying: "No, no, not sad enough. I want something really sad."

As I write, my search continues - I've yet to find the music that is, beyond dispute, the saddest in the world. But my work so far has led me to one central insight: music that goes all out to embrace sadness, that attempts, as it were, to burrow into it, is prone to end, truly sad music is most often music that is, on the surface, celebratory, even festive; the music of people trying to hold off sorrow, to lose themselves for a moment in the fleeting joys of life.

Amidst all that tragic folk music, it was curious how often it was the dances that carried this quality. And in the realm of composed music, I found myself returning again and again to the lonely piano of Chopin.

With the notable exception of his *Funeral March*, it is hard to find a passage of Chopin that is straightforwardly mournful. Frequently found working within dance genres - the waltz, the polonaise, the mazurka - he never neglects their natural exuberance. Yet his waltzes hardly conjure up magnificent balls; I see instead a solitary dancing couple in some large deserted house who know they will be parted once the music ends. Likewise, the wonderful nocturnes, though seemingly full of romantic yearning, are never without the anticipation of disappointment; and militaristic polonaises are underpinned by a nostalgia for a lost childhood, for an occupied Polish homeland remembered in exile.

This is the sadness to be found at the edge of a smile, the wistful shadow that follows the joyous fling of an arm. It is music that - like the short stories of Chekhov or the films of Yasujiro Ozu - celebrates life while never being able quite to forget its shortness and fragility. Chopin remains on my shortlist.

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# Best movers of the year

What makes a good estate agent and who is at the top? Rachel Kelly searches out high-flyers

**S**elling your house is an emotional business, famously equal in stress to bereavement and divorce. So, for the third year running, we are responding to readers' requests to list Britain's top agents.

Choosing the right name from behind the agency banners can mean the difference between a smooth 12 weeks (the average time it takes to sell a house, according to Black Horse agencies) or a period fraught with tension.

Whatever the firms say in their marketing spiel, individuals, not companies, sell houses. It is an individual's ability to act as salesman, midwife, agony uncle or aunt and deal-maker that not only achieves the best price, but also ensures that a sale proceeds smoothly.

We have again asked the buying agents Property Vision, Bedrock International and Homefront to nominate the movers in the agency world. Such firms work with agents on a daily basis because they act for buyers. We have also asked Stowe Construction for its views. As a developer of houses in the Home Counties and Central London, Stowe has an acute sense of who actually sells the schemes that they have completed.

There are two types of agent. There are those who sit in their offices and wait for the phone to ring, and those who are out in the marketplace, on the street, finding out all and everything about the market in their local area," says Harry Marriott of Stowe.

The best agents have an impressive databank of information in their heads: recent sales, prices per square foot, the condition of the property, who might sell, who is getting divorced, who married, who might buy, who is having a

baby. It is a detailed knowledge of the minutiae of people's lives that makes deals happen for the top operators. They will move quickly to view a property and move mountains to show it (Sundays are no problem if that is what a buyer wants). The smartest agents ride motorbikes (think of Ed Mead at the London agents Douglas & Gordon), which give them an added edge.

The best agents socialise with their clients and in the country that may mean taking up shooting or hunting. And they are friendly with other agents, too: they are a key source of information and potential deals. In London agents share information after an initial attempt to sell on their own.

Good agents are in for the long haul. A successful sale may mean another instruction five years later. The best operators are local, not seeking to master the world, but a few streets or even a square (Graham Scott Dalgleish, from the agents W. A. Ellis, is the expert on Cadogan Square in Chelsea, for example).

Last year was a difficult one for agents. The property market wobbled, then all but died in the autumn as fluctuating world financial markets left buyers and sellers uncertain. In such a climate it takes courage, as Willie Gehring of Property Vision says, to tell a potential client that his or her house is worth less than Mrs Jones's three doors down (which has an extra bedroom and has been totally refurbished).

The names on our list should help sellers seeking the best price for their home, and should help buyers too. These are often agents with the best selection on their books. Inevitably, they are biased to the top end of the market because these are the agents known to buying agents.

## AND THE WINNERS ARE...

AT THE top end of the Central London market, David Forbes of Chiswick is a pre-eminent deal-maker. Over the past year he has moved west from his Chelsea and Knightsbridge stamping grounds and now sells as often in W11 and Kensington as in southwest London.

Other names doing the top deals are Alan Russell, of Russell Simpson, who sells some of London's most expensive properties, and Andrew Langton of Aylesea.

In Chelsea, honourable mentions go to Louise Hewlett of Aylesea, and Andy Buchanan, of John D Wood, who knows everything there is to know about Chelsea Square. Still doing deals with persistence and tenacity are Charlotte Mortimer and Jonathan Hewlett at FPD Savills, and Howard Elston of Strutt & Parker.

Mr Hewlett has a lower profile than some, but handled the sale of Lord Lloyd-Webber's house in Eaton Square and is currently selling the Ski Club in Eaton Square for about £15 million. Dick Ford, at Knight Frank in Kensington Church Street, is among the most experienced operators in the Kensington market. His background as the son of a courier ensures his smooth dealings with sometimes difficult clients, while Ed Mead, of Douglas & Gordon, is making a name for himself selling in South Kensington and Chelsea.

Farther out, Michael Connolly of John D Wood in Trinity Road, is the best, most professional agent at the top end

of the market in Wandsworth. Niall McMahon, of McMahon & Co, is still selling more houses on communal gardens in W11 than anyone else, his close friendships and long residence in the area making him a natural. Paul Finnegan, of FPD Savills, was cited as a top agent for the most expensive properties in Richmond and Wimbledon and within the M25. "He is very professional, on time and good-humoured," one buying agent says.

In the country, Sam Butler, of Butler Sherbourne in Burford, Oxfordshire, gets top marks. Mr Butler was a partner in Knight Frank and has built up a thriving practice with three or four offices in Gloucestershire. It specialises in the middle and upper end of the market.

Martin Lamb, of Knight Frank in Exeter, is an excellent and convivial agent for the West Country. Tommy de Malet Morgan, of Savills in Guildford, easily defends his place on the previous list.

John Husband, of Humberts in Lewes, East Sussex, is not only an agent who makes deals happen but is also one with an informed view of the marketplace.

Patrick Bailey, of Strutt & Parker in Newbury, specialises in Berkshire property, as does Brenda Coates, of Drewett Neale.

For property in Wiltshire, Graham Waterton, of Strutt & Parker in Salisbury, gets top marks, while Atty Boer-Roberts, of Knight Frank, is recommended for property in Gloucestershire. In Cam-

bridgeshire, Bidwell's Jock Lloyd-Jones in Trumpington ranks highly. In Northamptonshire, those interested in smaller properties will not go far wrong with Richard Jones of Jackson-Stops & Staff. Michael Dunne, of Lane Fox in Winchester, was highly praised, as was Philip Blanchard, of John D Wood's Winchester office.

Farther east, Conrad Payne, of Cluttons Daniel Smith, was cited for his skills in and around Canterbury.

In the Cotswolds, Harry Clegg, of Clegg Kennedy Drew, is recommended for selling farms or estates up to and above £1 million. Robin Thomas, of Strutt & Parker in Exeter, covers Devon, Cornwall and parts of Somerset.

Also in Somerset, try Richard Pawson, of Humberts. Ian Stirling, of Lane Fox in Banbury, has been described as "the best agent in north Oxfordshire". In Exeter, Tim Page-Ratcliffe, of Strutt & Parker, is widely recommended. In Kent, Martyn Phillips of Phillips & Stubbs scored top marks, while in Tewkesbury, Northamptonshire, Peter Evans of Bartram & Co is deemed a significant threat to rival firms.

Farther north, Tim Blenkins, of Blenkins & Co, works with Knight Frank, and is the person to contact for expensive estate sales in Yorkshire, especially in the Humbleton and Howardian Hills area. There are honourable mentions, too, for Tim Waring and Tony Wright, of Carter Jonas in Harrogate. Edward Waterson, of Carter Jonas in York,



was another agent collecting compliments.

In Scotland, James Carnegie-Arbutnot, of Brodies, comes highly recommended for anyone wishing to sell estates in and around Edinburgh. Simon Rennie, of Rennie & Co, is another rising star, adept at finding houses in Edinburgh from £150,000.

Angus Cheape, of Langley Taylor, once again drew warm reviews. Niall Graham-Campbell is from Finlayson Hughes, one of the few agencies to have an Inverness office. He has carved out a niche selling Highland estates.

THE house featured in the BBC television series *Miss Marple* is for sale. Oak Cottage, Lunscombe Hill, Devon, was built in 1863 and has many period features such as stone mullioned windows, leaded lights, carved corbels and Tudor-style chimneys. A main feature of the house is the classically landscaped garden. Robert Williams's Evesley office is selling the four-bedroom house for £340,000.

ONE of London's most expensive houses is for sale. The Grade II listed Old Rectory, Old Church Street, Chelsea, was bought by Gianna Angelopoulos, a Greek lawyer, for £25 million in 1995. She and her husband, Dimitris Avramopoulos, have spent £10 million redecorating the 50-room 18th-century home.

THE Connaught Square property once home to Victor Lowndes, the head of the British division of the Playboy Club and right-hand man to Hugh Hefner, is on offer. Many celebrities, such as Bill Cosby, Tony Curtis and Warren Beatty, attended parties there in the Sixties. Roman Polanski is said to have held his stag party at the house before his marriage to Sharon Tate. Chestertons Residential Hyde Park office is asking £1.3 million for the lease.

THE house of the Rev Francis Kilvert is for sale. Kilvert's *Diary*, published in 1938, elevated this humble parish priest to posthumous world fame and gave a unique insight into the Victorian rural scene in the 1870s. During the last ten years of his life he kept a diary in small notebooks. The most interesting parts were printed but the rest of the diary was destroyed and only three notebooks survived. The Old Vicarage, Bredwardine, Herefordshire, is a five-bedroom house and is for sale through Knight Frank's Hereford office for £425,000.

A CLERKENWELL flat designed by Peter Mandelson's architect, Seth Stein, is for rent. The flat, in fashionable St John Street, is nestled between restaurants and bars, including Stephen Bull, Vic Naylor's bar, Ckada and Café Lazeez. Club Gascon is close by. The flat is for rent through Hurford Salvi Carr for £50 a week.

BEN WAKEHAM

## Fancy a Hebridean isle?

Andrew Eames on a Scottish sale

**S**ix crofters on the Scottish island of Barra are putting the tail of the Outer Hebrides on the market. For the past 80 years, the Barra Head islands have been largely uninhabited, but Pabbay once hosted a whisky still for passing fishermen. On Mingulay, the remains of the village are still standing, though only the schoolhouse has a roof.

The crofters are relinquishing the islands with regret, but the simple practicalities of grazing their sheep 25 nautical miles from home make economic nonsense of a tradition that has produced some of the finest organic lamb in the world.

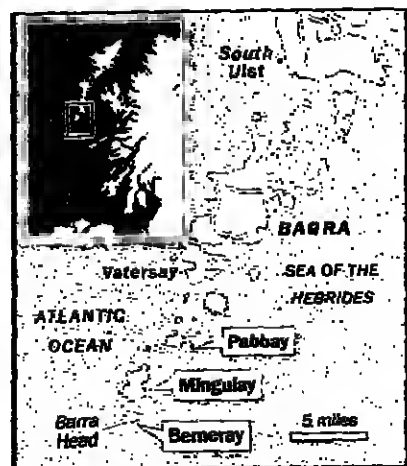
"Sixty-four years ago a sheep from Mingulay sold for £4 a head," Roddy MacLeod, one of the six, says. "This year they sold for £2.20 each — and it cost us £3 to get them to market."

The six Barra families have owned the islands (Mingulay, Berneray, Pabbay and assorted islets) since 1955, but managing them has been back-breaking and bank-breaking work. Take, for example, the annual round-up for market. None of these islands has sheltered landing places for boats, so first you must catch a wild sheep before rucking it under your arm while it struggles furiously, and wade out to a dinghy pitching around in the shallows. Transfer the sheep to the bigger boat and repeat 300 times. Even with subsidies it is pretty unrewarding work.

Everyone who has set foot on Mingulay, the largest of the islands, speaks of its distinctive charm. Long ago it was the inspiration for the *Mingulay Boat Song*, which still features in local ceilidhs.

The 640-hectare island is quite treeless — it is gentle and green on the eastern side, rising to some dramatic cliffs in the west. It has a microclimate that belongs more to the sunshine-rich Tires, to its south, than to the misty Outer Hebrides stretching to the north.

Until the beginning of this century the people of Mingulay lived largely by crofting, fishing and eating seabirds caught from the cliffs. Ian Alan MacNeil, whose mother was from Mingulay, used to run



the small ferry between Barra and the island of Vatersay. He knows how tricky these waters can be. Mr MacNeil recently came to the rescue of Mingulay's temporary resident, the Glasgow-based conceptual artist Julie Brooke, when treacherous autumn weather rendered the island unapproachable for two weeks longer than she had expected.

Ms Brooke, who was seven months pregnant and had been on the island since May, was understandably relieved to see him. "It's going to be a very healthy baby," she says. "It's had plenty of fresh air."

That was Ms Brooke's third season alone on Mingulay, and she described it as something of a personal tragedy that the islands have to be sold. She is accustomed to living alone in the wilds, having spent several years in a cave on the island of Jura until that had become unavailable to her.

The Barra Head crofters allowed her to set up on Mingulay after she gave them a demonstration of her work. She remem-

bers that there was "a sort of silence after the slide show — and then Roddy said it was not really the sort of thing they were used to". Nevertheless, the crofters gave her permission to use the schoolhouse whenever they were not visiting and since then they have been "incredibly supportive" of her work, some of which remains on the island.

Stock management expeditions to outlying uninhabited islands are a part of Hebridean crofting culture. Mr MacLeod and his colleagues used to travel out a couple of times a year to Mingulay and stay there for as long as was necessary.

"It was always hard work, but it was also a good time," he says. "We'd tell all the stories, have a good crack."

Quite who will be tempted by this fluttering tail of islands is anyone's guess, says Ken MacDonald, the Stornoway-based lawyer acting on behalf of the crofters. "I can't recall anything like this ever appearing on the market before," he says.

Mr MacDonald expects the larger countryside or wildlife agencies such as the RSPB to enter the bidding, but the latter says that the islands do not have a sufficiently unusual bird population.

The National Trust for Scotland is more positive. "The islands have real scenic and archaeological value," a spokesman says.

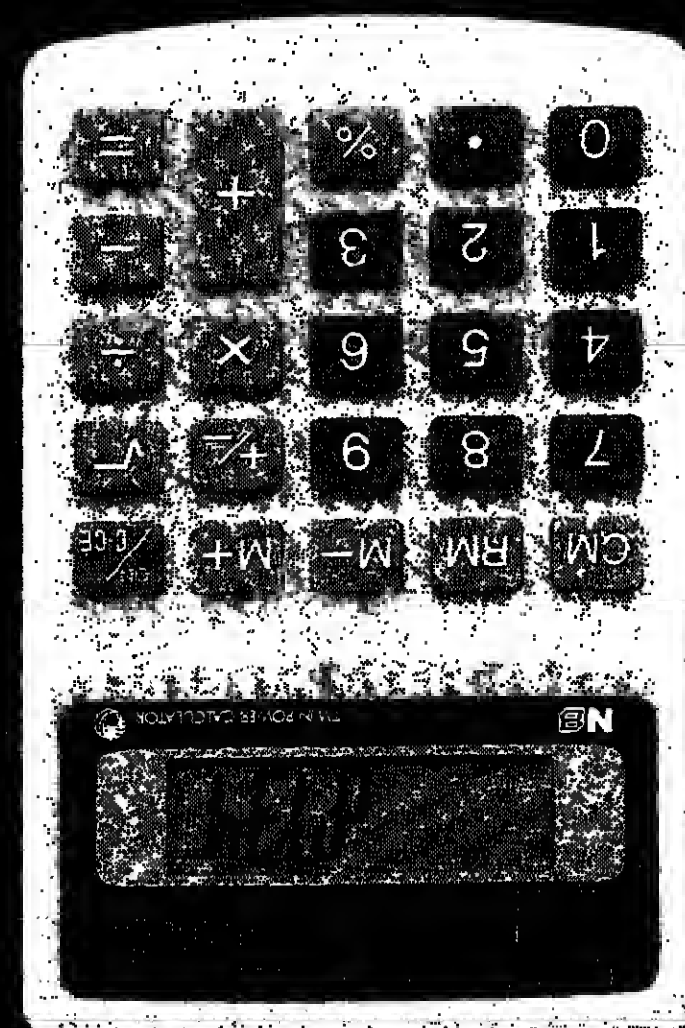
Although a full valuation has yet to be completed, there has been talk of a price tag as high as £1 million. "It doesn't sound unreasonable," says the Hamburg-based agent Farhad Vadi, who specialises in selling islands to the very wealthy. "The island market is strong and there hasn't recently been much for sale in Scotland."

For private purchasers the perceived romance of the islands will be crucial. For the agencies, the price could be the sticking point.

Mr MacNeil admits to being unhappy with the idea of his mother's birthplace falling into foreign hands. He returns there quite often in the summer months, taking people to look at where their families once lived. It would be a shame if that tradition, too, had to stop.

30p

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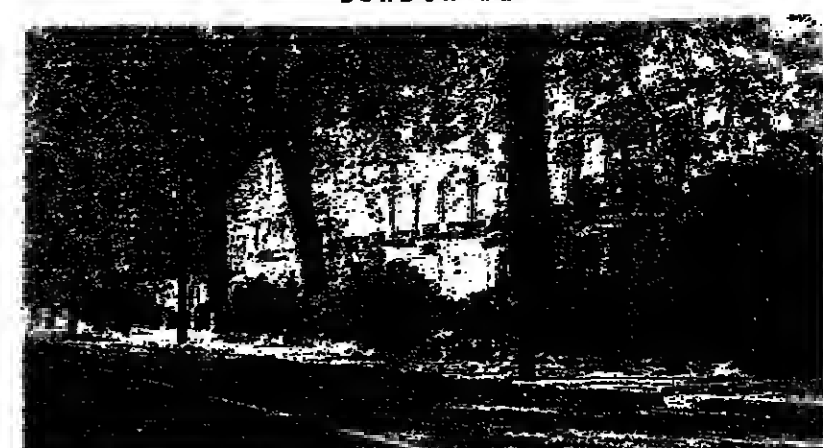
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# Chris McGrath finds Florida Pearl's trainer in confident mood

## Mullins keeper of the faith

It is a plucky hand he is playing, all right, but then that is how the Irish have come to trust him. A lesser man would lose his nerve. As Leopardstown on Sunday, Florida Pearl goes on trial for the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup. He fell in the Epsom Chase there on his reappearance, only the fourth time he had jumped obstacles under Willie Mullins did not panic, did not rush extra experience into him. As a rival trainer puts it: "By God, Willie's going to look some sort of genius if he pulls it off. He's nearly been one, too."

That messianic spectre, the heir to Arkle, has been perceived more than once in Ireland over the past thirty years or so, but only through a glass darkly — generally followed, in brave sorrow, by several more glasses.

Now, as they drain the black stuff in celebration and conviction, a clearer vision of greatness is emerging in Florida Pearl, as graceful as he is powerful. Yet the more feverish his countrymen, the more placid seems Mullins in his lair under the Blackstairs mountains.

It is not his fault that racing people — in Ireland as anywhere — have such a weakness for prophets and loss, for these beguiling cycles of expectation and disillusion, loose talk and tight belts. The trouble is that he is insistent, almost casually, that this time they have the real thing on their hands. And one has to accept what he says, not merely because he is so genuine, so wholly lacking in vanity, but because he so obviously knows what he is talking about.

His father, Paddy, is the revered patriarch of Irish National Hunt trainers. Willie, 42, was working for the old man when Dawn Run launched hundreds of tributes into the grandstand roof at Cheltenham after the 1986 Gold Cup.

"Icon" is a word that can be used too freely in such a frivolous context, but Mullins understands how countless ordinary people exult in these dreams. By the same token, he is aware of his responsibilities.

of the pain that accompanies iconoclasm. Yet he is adamant that this wonderful horse, 17 hands tall with a white blaze, can shoulder the greatest of expectations. "I'm not going to



Mullins checks the wellbeing of Florida Pearl, nearside, after a workout with Alexander Banquet yesterday

try to compare him with Arkle," he says. "He was something else. But I certainly think he's good enough to be the best since."

Nobody, moreover, could demonstrate more credibly that he knows where he stands with a racehorse. The barns at his stables in the Barrow valley, between Carlow and Kilkenny, are identified by the paint on the box doors. In the red barn, three adjacent stalls are occupied by horses that are consigned to him as the redeemer of consecutive Festivals for thousands of Irish punters. With Or Which, Florida Pearl and Alexander Banquet have won the last three runnings of the Bumper to the relief of their animated supporters.

He rode With Or Which himself. "On the morning of the race I heard Ted Walsh on the television talking about the

**RICHARD EVANS**  
After a decade of being a horse owner, Richard Evans has decided to become a horse trainer. He has bought a stable in the Barrow valley, between Carlow and Kilkenny, and is planning to start training horses in the next few months.

Irish banker. He said that they'd better get a good look at him down the start, as that was the last they'd see of him. I asked who he was talking about, and he told me it was With Or Which. That was a fair shock to me.

"Then, when we got home — the people who'd left work to go to the betting office, people who'd never set foot in one in their lives. Apparently, they

were crammed. The Irish banker is not the owner's or the trainer's. He belongs to the Irish people. They laugh once or twice, and that's it."

Florida Pearl has obliged in this role twice already, having returned last year for the Royal & Sun Alliance Chase, and Mullins thinks he is better still this year. He had decided, after the Bumper, not to squander Florida Pearl's precious resources. He would miss out hurdling and run him as sparingly as possible to preserve, with luck, three cracks at the Gold Cup. Everything had gone right until the last ditch at the Christmas meeting, when he was still on the bridle in pursuit of Doran's Pride.

"It could be a blessing in disguise," Mullins said. "Jackie [his wife] always rides the horse and reckons he's very intelligent. When you teach him, he learns, repeats. Richard

[Dunwoody] had not wound him up for the previous five or six fences and asked him three strides out. In his own mind, the horse was waiting to get reined back just to pop it, hadn't realised he'd got the office to fly it. Maybe next time Richard will know not to ask him so quickly."

However, the dream is alive for the Hennessy on Sunday. Archie O'Leary, the owner of Florida Pearl, rejected an offer of £400,000 this time last year; Mullins disclosed that two further bids, presumably even bigger, have been rejected in the last month. O'Leary remains steadfast. Famously, the Corkman once told a caller: "I am for sale. So is my wife. But the horse is not." As Mullins says: "After all, this is what you strive for. You spend your life trying for this."

O'Leary, a former rugby international, had found sporting fulfilment priceless as an amateur. Embellished by the recent endeavours of Ulster and London Irish, perhaps his successors will shock the French at Lansdowne Road on Saturday. It could be quite a weekend in Dublin.

## Mill Reef's owner dies

PAUL MELLON, 91, a leading owner-breeder, died at his Virginia home on Monday. Ian Balding, who trained Mellon's horses in Britain, said yesterday: "Peter Hastings Bass and before him his father, Aubrey, trained for him before I did. He had horses in Britain for over

50 years. I trained a host of good horses for him, but Mill Reef (Derby, Eclipse Stakes, King George and Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe) was the main one."

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## WOLVERHAMPTON

### THUNDERER

1.30 Peary Queen. 2.00 Frederick James. 2.30 PRIDE OF BRITTON (nap). 3.00 China Castle. 3.30 Be Warned. 4.00 West U There. 4.30 Cangetyourbreath.

GOING: STANDARD SIS  
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

### 1.30 CHIVE MAIDEN HANDICAP (Dry E2,424: 7) (11 runners)

101 (6) 6-84 ARK 14 (R) J. Jordan 5-9-11 R. Portman 65  
102 (10) 000 SOCIETY KING 127 J. Banks 4-9-4 R. Portman 55  
103 (2) 200 THUNDERER 108 (R) J. Allen 4-9-4 J. O'Brien 68  
104 (9) 0-0-4 STRAWBERY 8 B. Smith 4-8-13 R. Portman 77  
105 (10) 0-0-4 MAMMADO 11 (V) J. O'Brien 5-8-7 G. Frawley 77  
106 (11) 5-0-5 SCATTERING SEED 14 G. Frawley 4-8-5 J. O'Brien 77  
107 (12) 2-0-5 PEARY QUEEN 15 B. Smith 4-8-5 A. P. O'Brien 77  
108 (9) 0-0-4 SHADY HILL 100 M. B. Smith 7-1-10 G. Frawley 77  
109 (1) 0-0-4 THUNDERER 108 (R) J. Allen 4-9-4 J. O'Brien 68  
110 (7) 0-0-4 THUNDERER 108 (R) J. Allen 4-9-4 J. O'Brien 68  
111 (2) 0-0-4 THUNDERER 108 (R) J. Allen 4-9-4 J. O'Brien 68

### 2.00 CHIVE MAIDEN HANDICAP (Dry E2,411: 7) (10)

201 (6) 6-84 ARK 14 (R) J. Jordan 5-9-11 R. Portman 65  
202 (10) 000 SOCIETY KING 127 J. Banks 4-9-4 R. Portman 55  
203 (2) 200 THUNDERER 108 (R) J. Allen 4-9-4 J. O'Brien 68  
204 (9) 0-0-4 STRAWBERY 8 B. Smith 4-8-13 R. Portman 77  
205 (10) 0-0-4 MAMMADO 11 (V) J. O'Brien 5-8-7 G. Frawley 77  
206 (11) 5-0-5 SCATTERING SEED 14 G. Frawley 4-8-5 J. O'Brien 77  
207 (12) 2-0-5 PEARY QUEEN 15 B. Smith 4-8-5 A. P. O'Brien 77  
208 (9) 0-0-4 SHADY HILL 100 M. B. Smith 7-1-10 G. Frawley 77  
209 (1) 0-0-4 THUNDERER 108 (R) J. Allen 4-9-4 J. O'Brien 68  
210 (7) 0-0-4 THUNDERER 108 (R) J. Allen 4-9-4 J. O'Brien 68

### 2.30 SAGE CLAIMING STAKES (E2,015: 5) (8)

301 (4) 0-0-4 PRIDE OF BRITTON 11 (V) J. O'Brien 5-8-7 G. Frawley 77  
302 (10) 000 SOCIETY KING 127 J. Banks 4-9-4 R. Portman 55  
303 (2) 200 THUNDERER 108 (R) J. Allen 4-9-4 J. O'Brien 68  
304 (9) 0-0-4 STRAWBERY 8 B. Smith 4-8-13 R. Portman 77  
305 (10) 0-0-4 MAMMADO 11 (V) J. O'Brien 5-8-7 G. Frawley 77  
306 (11) 5-0-5 SCATTERING SEED 14 G. Frawley 4-8-5 J. O'Brien 77  
307 (12) 2-0-5 PEARY QUEEN 15 B. Smith 4-8-5 A. P. O'Brien 77  
308 (9) 0-0-4 SHADY HILL 100 M. B. Smith 7-1-10 G. Frawley 77  
309 (1) 0-0-4 THUNDERER 108 (R) J. Allen 4-9-4 J. O'Brien 68  
310 (7) 0-0-4 THUNDERER 108 (R) J. Allen 4-9-4 J. O'Brien 68

### COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: 1. Balding, 2. Evans, 3. Hastings Bass, 4. J. O'Brien, 5. J. Jordan, 6. J. Allen, 7. J. Banks, 8. J. O'Brien, 9. J. Allen, 10. J. Banks, 11. J. O'Brien, 12. J. Allen, 13. J. Banks, 14. J. O'Brien, 15. J. Allen, 16. J. Banks, 17. J. O'Brien, 18. J. Allen, 19. J. Banks, 20. J. O'Brien, 21. J. Allen, 22. J. Banks, 23. J. O'Brien, 24. J. Allen, 25. J. Banks, 26. J. O'Brien, 27. J. Allen, 28. J. Banks, 29. J. O'Brien, 30. J. Allen, 31. J. Banks, 32. J. O'Brien, 33. J. Allen, 34. J. Banks, 35. J. O'Brien, 36. J. Allen, 37. J. Banks, 38. J. O'Brien, 39. J. Allen, 40. J. Banks, 41. J. O'Brien, 42. J. Allen, 43. J. Banks, 44. J. O'Brien, 45. J. Allen, 46. J. Banks, 47. J. O'Brien, 48. J. Allen, 49. J. Banks, 50. J. O'Brien, 51. J. Allen, 52. J. Banks, 53. J. O'Brien, 54. J. Allen, 55. J. Banks, 56. J. O'Brien, 57. J. Allen, 58. J. Banks, 59. J. O'Brien, 60. J. Allen, 61. J. Banks, 62. J. O'Brien, 63. J. Allen, 64. J. Banks, 65. J. O'Brien, 66. J. Allen, 67. J. Banks, 68. J. 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O'Brien, 702. J. Allen, 703. J. Banks, 704. J. O'Brien, 705. J. Allen, 706. J. Banks, 707. J. O'Brien, 708. J. Allen, 709. J. Banks, 710. J. O'Brien, 711. J. Allen, 712. J. Banks, 713. J. O'Brien, 714. J. Allen, 715. J. Banks, 716. J. O'Brien, 717. J. Allen, 718. J. Banks, 719. J. O'Brien, 720. J. Allen, 721. J. Banks, 722. J. O'Brien, 723. J. Allen, 724. J. Banks, 725. J. O'Brien, 726. J. Allen, 727. J. Banks, 728. J. O'Brien, 729. J. Allen, 730. J. Banks, 731. J. O'Brien, 732. J. Allen, 733. J. Banks, 734. J. O'Brien, 735. J. Allen, 736. J. Banks, 737. J. O'Brien, 738. J. Allen, 739. J. Banks, 740. J. O'Brien, 741. J. Allen, 742. J. Banks, 743. J. O'Brien, 744. J. Allen, 745. J. Banks, 746. J. O'Brien, 747. J. Allen, 748. J. Banks, 749. J. O'Brien, 750. J. Allen, 751. J. Banks, 752. J. O'Brien, 753. J. Allen, 754. J. Banks, 755. J. O'Brien, 756. J. Allen, 757. J. Banks, 758. J. O'Brien, 759. J. Allen, 760. J. Banks, 761. J. O'Brien, 762. J. Allen, 763. J. Banks, 764. J. 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## Oliver Holt, football correspondent, welcomes the departure of a flawed England coach

This is not a time for crocodile tears, nor for crowing, but in the case of the departure of Glenn Hoddle from his job as the England coach last night there is some cause for rejoicing.

Hoddle's bizarre spiritual tenets often seemed to make the national team a laughing stock and his management style made training at Bisham Abbey before international duty, in the words of one bewildered player, "like joining the Moonies". Matters were not improved by his association with Eileen Drewery, a former pub landlady. But controversial though their views were, none of these faults would have produced the overwhelming sense of relief that most England supporters must feel today. They should rejoice not because they are rid of a man who often seemed arrogant, but because England are rid of a manager who was wasting the best generation of footballers this country has produced since 1970.

Optimism should be everywhere. England have world-class players such as Michael Owen, David Beckham, Sol Campbell and Rio Ferdinand established in the FA Cup Premiership. A battery of new players — including Wes Brown, Gareth Barry and Joe Cole — is coming through and they play with almost alarming precocity.

If Terry Venables had remained in charge — and many

of the players spoke wistfully of his days at the helm — he would surely have built on the progress that England made before and during the 1996 European championship and turned the team into genuine contenders for the World Cup in France last summer.

It was England's misfortune that Hoddle seemed to panic during the World Cup finals. He had a potent mix of youth and experience, players such as Paul Ince, Tony Adams and Alan Shearer, to anchor the stellar talents of Owen, Beckham and Campbell. His misuse of them and his obsession with his own image was agonising to watch.

The dismissal of Beckham in the second-round match against Argentina in St Etienne allowed Hoddle to deflect the blame for England's early exit on to a man whom he had treated abominably throughout the tournament. In fact, it was Hoddle's capriciousness, his treatment of the Manchester United midfielder in training on the very day of the Argentina game, that contributed to Beckham's fragile state of mind that night.

It was Hoddle's questionable judgment that made him persevere with Teddy Sheringham as a partner for Shearer when it was achingly obvious that Owen was the better choice. That error probably cost England victory against Romania and condemned the side to the early meeting with

**'At least there is a chance of success now'**



Good times: Hoddle is embraced by Ian Wright after England had qualified for the World Cup finals with a famous draw against Italy in Rome. Photographs: Marc Aspland

Gabriel Batistuta and company.

Yet Hoddle returned from France as if he had won the World Cup, not masterminding a knockout at the same stage as Paraguay. His conceit seemed actually to grow, but by now, the players were beginning to become uneasy. Ferdinand, the most creative defender that England have had since Bobby Moore, is thought to have suffered grievously in this respect. Defenders, in particular, found themselves the butt of Hoddle's criticism. Graeme Le Saux was made to carry the

ENGLAND COACHES TO OTHER ENGLAND MANAGERS					
Glenn Hoddle (1996-99)	28	17	6	5	42
Terry Venables (1994-96)	23	11	11	1	35
Graham Taylor (1990-93)	38	18	13	7	62
Bobby Robson (1982-90)	95	47	30	18	154
Ron Greenwood (1977-82)	55	33	12	10	93

can for the defeat against Romania, Campbell for the qualifying loss to Italy at Wembley. Both kept their counsel in public and seethed in private. By the time that England went to Sweden to start their European championship quali-

fying campaign at the beginning of September, the players' faith in the manager had ebbed away and suddenly a side that could have won the World Cup with the right guidance was playing like a pub team. No one would criticise

Hoddle in public, but in private, several senior players were vociferous.

Even if Hoddle had not regarded us with his views on reincarnation, that situation could only have worsened. Morale was so low that England would have been highly vulnerable against Poland at Wembley at the end of next month. Defeat then, and their hopes of qualifying for the finals of the European championship would have been all but over. It will still be an uphill struggle, but at least there is a chance of success now. Hoddle would not have

turned things around. He thought he was enlightening with his views, but his players were not impressed. In his last clutch of games — the draw against Bulgaria and the stuttering win over Luxembourg — they seemed hardly able to bring themselves to play for him.

Nor did he surround himself with the kind of staff members who might have told him when he was wrong.

He has gone now and the energy and the guilt that many of us felt in criticising his England can, at last, be put to more positive effect.



Owen: great talent



Bad times: Beckham is dismissed against Argentina and Hoddle and England bow out of France 98

AS A player, Glenn Hoddle was blessed with sublime touch and control, his feet as eloquent as any in football. As a man and a manager, Hoddle has never been able to exercise the same control over his life or, more important, his image.

Perhaps, as he might see it, it was his destiny never to fulfil completely the promise he showed, first as a player with Tottenham Hotspur, later as a manager whose coaching skills seemed boundless to an England team crying out for the leadership to elevate them to a place among the elite.

So who is Glenn Hoddle, and how did his career spiral out of control at such a giddy rate?

The man: Born in 1957 in Hayes, Middlesex, Hoddle was interested in football as a child and signed for Spurs as an apprentice in 1974. A year later he turned professional and seemed destined for a glittering career. Clean-cut, polite and with extravagant skill, he was idolised by fans

## The gifts, glory and the gaffes

### HODDLE'S LIFE AND TIMES

and their parents alike. The image was cemented with an apparently happy family life with his wife, Christine, and three children. A move to AS Monaco, coached by Arsène Wenger, identified him as the cosmopolitan sophisticate, able to adapt — unlike so many English footballers — to life abroad.

The player: Hoddle became established as one of the best midfield players in Europe, scoring on his debut for Spurs in 1976 and also for England in 1979, against Bulgaria. He twice won the FA Cup with Spurs and played his last match for them in the 1987 FA Cup Final, losing to Coventry City, before moving to Manchester, where he

won the French title. Although he gained 53 England caps, his international career never fulfilled its potential. He was often seen as a liability, that the team could not afford.

The manager: Joined Swindon Town as player-manager in 1991, taking them to the Premier League within two years. He was lured to Chelsea by Ken Bates, taking them to the 1994 Cup Final before the England job came in 1996 after the departure of Terry Venables. A successful start saw England qualify for the 1998 World Cup finals in France, but they went out in the second round after a troubled tournament that

started with Paul Gascoigne being controversially sent off and ended with David Beckham missing out on the penalty shoot-out against Argentina after which it was disclosed that the team had not practised taking penalties.

The gaffes: A television commentator for a breakfast broadcast, following Hoddle with his family, had as he walked with him, he left his wife, Christine, in the car. Hoddle's wife, Christine, was seen in a car park, and Hoddle's credibility with the media. He was accused of betraying his players when he published his World Cup diary, later criticised in *The Sun*.

Controversy continued to dog the England coach when details of an alleged row with Alan Shearer over the team's tactics in a win against Luxembourg surfaced in October. But that was just the precursor to his remarks last week and the future that followed.

KEVIN EASON

ENGLAND MATCH-BY-MATCH UNDER GLENN HODDLE									
WCQ: World Cup qualifier; T: Tournoi de France; WC: World Cup finals; ECQ: European Championship qualifier									
Sept 5	Malta	0	England	2	(Shearer, Shearer)	WCQ			
Oct 9	England	2	Poland	1	(Shearer 2)	WCQ			
Nov 9	Georgia	0	England	2	(Shearer, Shearer)	WCQ			
Feb 2	England	0	Italy	1	(Shearer)	WCQ			
Mar 29	England	2	Sweden	0	(Shearer, Shearer)	WCQ			
Apr 20	England	2	Georgia	0	(Shearer, Shearer)	WCQ			
May 28	England	2	S Africa	1	(Shearer)	WCQ			
May 31	Poland	0	England	2	(Shearer, Shearer)	WCQ			
June 4	England	2	Italy	0	(Shearer, Shearer)	WCQ			
June 7	France	0	England	1	(Shearer)	WCQ			
June 10	Brazil	1	England	0	(Shearer)	WCQ			
Sept 10	England	0	Moldova	0	(Shearer, Shearer)	WCQ			
Oct 11	Bel	0	England	0	(Shearer)	WCQ			
Nov 28	England	2	Cameroon	0	(Shearer, Shearer)	WCQ			
Feb 2	England	0	Chile	2	(Shearer)	WCQ			
Mar 25	Switzerland	1	England	1	(Shearer)	WCQ			
Apr 22	England	1	Portugal	0	(Shearer, Shearer)	WCQ			
May 22	England	0	S Arabia	0	(Shearer)	WCQ			
May 27	Marocco	0	England	1	(Shearer)	WCQ			
May 29	Belgium	0	England	0	(Shearer)	WCQ			
June 6	England	2	Denmark	0	(Shearer, Shearer)	WCQ			
June 22	Romania	2	England	1	(Shearer)	WCQ			
June 28	England	2	Colombia	0	(Shearer, Shearer)	WCQ			
June 30	England	2	Argentina	2	(Shearer, Shearer)	WCQ			
Sept 6	Sweden	2	England	1	(Shearer)	WCQ			
Oct 10	England	0	England	0	(Shearer)	WCQ			
Oct 14	Luxembourg	0	England	3	(Shearer, Shearer, Shearer)	WCQ			
Oct 18	England	2	Czech Rep	0	(Shearer, Shearer)	WCQ			

LEADING GOALSCORERS: 12: Shearer; 5: Shearer, Shearer, Shearer; 4: Owen, Wright.

## New Issues

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## Robson thwarted as Juninho stays put

HIS original signing had been pure theatre, stepping out at the Riverside Stadium to a backdrop of Latin drums and screaming children, as if Middlesbrough could not quite grasp that the fantasy was real (George Caulkin writes). The only nod to the artistic world last night was old-fashioned British farce, as Juninho's proposed £10.5 million return to the FA Cup Premiership club collapsed in confusion and acrimony.

The upshot — only hours after Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, had gone so far as to discuss fielding his former player within "a couple of weeks" — is that the Brazilian international will be remaining at his present club, Atlético Madrid, at least until the summer. The precise reasons for such a significant turnaround appear to centre on Juninho's fragile state of mind. "I'm very confused," he said. "One minute I'm staying, the next I'm going." He confirmed he would not be

leaving Spain until the end of the season, but his long-term future is no closer to resolution.

On the face of it, Juninho, who left Middlesbrough for Madrid in a £12.5 million deal two years ago, has good cause to be bewildered. Arrigo Sacchi, the Atlético coach, told Juninho that he played no part in his plans and has been content to leave him on the substitutes' bench for much of the season — only to insist last week "I want him to stay". By then, Juninho had been in negotiation with Middlesbrough as well as Aston Villa. Both clubs thought they had secured his services.

Oxford United, the Nationwide League division one club struggling to stay afloat financially, have been given a boost. Firaz Kassam, a wealthy hotelier, will provide £1 million to buy the club after the resignation yesterday of Keith Cox, the managing director — giving them a lifeline until at least March 31.

## Platt is left floored by Sampdoria's obstacles

THE long hours of Lancaster Gate indecision yesterday were more than enough for another son of England's managerial carousel. David Platt, to pack his bags and come home (Rob Hughes writes). At 32, and barely two months into his job as coach to the Italian club, Sampdoria, Platt decided the struggle was too unequal.

The sudden elevation of Platt to management in Serie A was ludicrous. He may have spent months after finishing his playing days with Arsenal studying all the things that make a coach. But he had neither licence nor experience, and the brotherhood of Italy's coaches refused to allow him to break their code that says the proof of management is sacrosanct.

One hopes he came out of it with plenty of fire, because it was Sampdoria's error, not his, to offer a 2½-year contract to an unqualified young man. That error, perpetrated by Enrico Mantovani, suggests that in Genoa

the son is not as worldly wise as the father. The late Paolo Mantovani had been a remarkable figure, a self-made billionaire in oil and shipping, and a football lover who had nursed his beloved Sampdoria from the third division to a place in Europe. When Enrico Mantovani saw this status threatened, he panicked, or he dreamt.

He hired Platt, who was forbidden to be called coach, who was not allowed on the touchline or the bench, and who attempted for six unfortunate games to instil whatever he knows about football into players too close to him in age, by remote control. Sampdoria sagged, and yesterday Platt admitted: "I could have done with fewer obstacles in my way. I sensed that the bureaucratic problems were going to get worse, and because of my affection for Sampdoria, I felt that the best solution would be to make a swift decision and enable a qualified Italian coach to be appointed immediately."

## Bodenham takes charge

Hampton ..... 2  
Ardingly ..... 0

By MEL WEBB

FROM the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium to a schools playing-field in the outer suburbs of London: this was the culture shock to end them all. Once one of England's most highly respected referees, Martin Bodenham, who retired from big-time football at the end of last season, yesterday trod an infinitely humbler stage, but little did he in a distinguished career could have put him in touch with more passion than was abroad on this day.

Bodenham was at Hampton School to take charge of the semi-final of the Boodle and Dunthorpe Cup, the national

competition for independent schools. His last showpiece appointment was the Coca-Cola Cup final between Middlesbrough and Leicester City at Wembley in 1997: an occasion to remember though that must have been, the presence of 800 baying schoolboys on the touchline produced more than the odd frisson down the back-bone in this game, too.

Hampton climbed into their task with some relish from the very early stages and shook Ardingly by taking the lead after ten minutes. Stone sparked things off with a weaving run, the Ardingly defence dithered fatally and Naidu poked the ball across the face of the goal for Sexton to move in unopposed and turn the ball past a hopelessly exposed Powell.

Stone made it two with a penalty five minutes after the break, after Hadden had brought Nasrallah down. Paradoxically, the goal brought out the best in Ardingly, who laid siege on Hampton for the rest of the game, but with Comber outstanding in the latter stages, the home side held out.

Hampton will play in their first Boodle and Dunthorpe final against Wolverhampton Grammar School, who beat Repton on penalties after a 3-3 draw after extra time last week. HAMPTON (4-4-2): D. Comber — R. Dixon, M. Watson, C. Ho, Y. Chow (sub: T. Jackson, E. Smith, D. Sene — B. Naidu, K. Warren, A. Stone, A. Nasrallah — A. Fleming, M. Sexton (sub: J. Kingston, B. ARDINGLY (4-4-2): D. Powell — M. Forster, A. Wright, P. Hadden (sub: P. Elliott, M. V. Lafferty — C. Chappell, B. Dwyer, M. Harris, T. Swann — G. Davies, D. Reeves, M. Bodenham.



Hadden, of Ardingly, brings down Nasrallah and concedes what turned out to be the decisive penalty

McRae crit



Taylor decla  
join rank  
Test match



Boxing  
Welson has  
title goal







# Harlequins lure back Carling

...and the



# The curious urge to expose your failings

You wouldn't want to spend even two minutes in Ian Hinde's filthy flat (decorative style: IRA dirty protest) any more than you'd want to lick the seat on a Number 11 bus. The colonies of bacteria in Ian's fridge have grown so large they now have their own postcode. If the makers of *Coming Clean* — The Truth About Housework (BBC2) — noticed that they had gathered this gruesome footage by filming secretly inside a British prison cell, there'd be calls for Jack Straw's resignation as Home Secretary.

Jennifer Grimshaw, a retired London businesswoman who shares Ian's belief that cleanliness is next to fascism, had also been somewhat persuaded to let the filmmakers past her front door. Jennifer would be Magritte's Surreal idea of a cleaning lady. "I don't wash up," she announced bristling, before she'd even introduced herself. "I do not scrub. I do not clean

the silver. I do not rinse my glasses. I think housework is a mug's game." Behind her was an apartment that could have been inherited by a very shrewd Neighbourhood Watch consultant: clothes, saucers, cups, shoes were strewn randomly, as if to dupe a burglar into thinking that he'd been beaten to the scene by a rival thief who had already ransacked the place.

Then Vicky Keane, a student sharing a flat in Leeds with several other girls, said "I absolutely insist on an unmade bed," as if she were telling us primarily that she always insists on the milk being poured into the cup after the tea. "I just can't see the point in making a bed, because 12 hours later it's going to be messed up right again and then it's just a pure waste of time in my mind." Luckily we didn't see any point in watching

herself too thoroughly either, since she'd only have to wash herself all over again a few hours later (but does Vicky — knowing that she'll have another Chinese meal half an hour after finishing the first one — not bother squandering the effort involved in eating the first Chinese meal at all?). "It's all linked to the fact that I want to be a career girl," says Vicky, unironically, "and I just haven't got time for clearing up. It's just girl power, really." If this is supposed to be a plug for girl power, let's assume the career Vicky's got in mind isn't public relations.

Even more baffling than trying to fathom why anybody voluntarily chooses to live this way (unless they're on a fat retractor for Tropical Diseases to contract hideous unknown bacterial infections) is trying to work out why anybody would agree to ex-



pose their insanitary homes to such a huge audience. Jennifer Grimshaw told us: "I don't want people in my home. That shows too much of me, and if people come into my house I feel very defensive." So when why let the BBC's cameras in?

The same question nags you throughout *Swingers* (ITV), which was maybe straining just a little too hard to shock when it prom-

ed itself as a documentary which "dares to question whether monogamy still has a place in today's society". It was like those documentaries which dare to question (very loudly) whether the streets of Britain have become so lawless that we risk being felled in a drive-by shooting whenever we pop out to buy a newspaper before concluding (very quietly) that, um, actually no they haven't.

Andy and Fiona, the film's two main swingers, weren't even swinging by the end of it — not with each other at any rate; they were about to separate. Andy, who claimed to have such a high libido that it was one of his heavy burdens in life, was considerably kinder on messing around with other women than his wife was on messing around with other men. Sometimes Andy secretly messed around with other women without telling Fiona — not because he and Fiona didn't have an honest open

relationship, or because she might get jealous, oh no, but because, as he explained, telling her would be like "bragging". This must be why Bill Clinton never mentioned anything about Monica Lewinsky to Hillary or to Kenneth Starr or to Congress for so long: the President didn't want to seem as if he was boasting about his sexual conquests, that's all.

Then Bob told us about his wife's "S" days. On days when his wife, Sue, is wearing her special "S" on her necklace Bob can order her to perform any sexual whim — including picking up strange men on a Tube train and bringing them home for sex so that Bob can watch.

You see, when Sue's wearing the "S" on her necklace, she's my slave for the day. So "S" is for slave. "S" is for sex. "S" is for Sue. Curiously, Bob never seems to wear a necklace bearing the letter "M" — as in

"M" for master, "M" for manly, "M" for murder.

Look, nobody minds what these people do, it alone cares. But why do they want us all to know? Again, in *Full Metal Backpack*, last night's film for Channel 4's season of Short Stories, several drunk young Britons let themselves be filmed as they made fools of themselves on holiday in Vietnam and Cambodia. Perhaps they didn't realise how they would come across in Dimitri Doyanis's film: maybe they didn't care. A disillusioned young Scot lamented: "It's slightly disappointing to come all this way and still be yourself." So who was the self he soached to be? Bruce Chatwin? The Dalai Lama? No. Martin Sheen, in a GI outfit, in *Apocalypse Now*. The Vietnamese were discretely silent. It was only their eyes that said, "And Westerners bombed us because they thought their culture was superior to ours."

## REVIEW

Joe Joseph

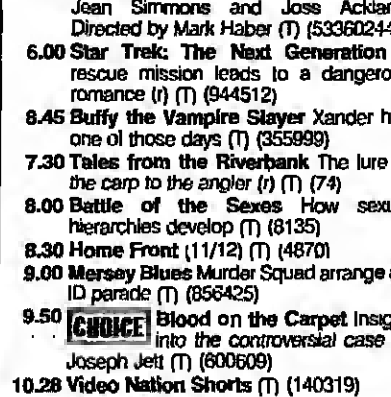
**BBC1**  
6.00am Business Breakfast (64319)  
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (33118)  
9.00am Killy (1834124)  
9.45 The Vanessa Show (1475118)  
10.55 News Weather (1812580)  
11.00am Real Romance (683357)  
11.25am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1680918)  
11.55 News Weather (11022203)  
12.00pm Call My Bluff (88777)  
12.30pm Wipeout (5217785)  
12.55 The Weather Show (14855067)  
1.00pm One O'Clock News (136030)  
1.30pm Regional News Weather (47277135)  
1.40pm Neighbours (125156300)  
2.05pm Inside A stylish bank robbery appears to be the work of a known ex-con, but could there be a copycat at large? With Raymond Burr (13203951)  
2.55pm Body Spies Two women cut their drinking session (5557241)  
3.25pm Children's BBC (14670970)  
3.45pm Little Monsters (240574)  
3.50pm ChuckleVision (518088)  
4.10pm See It Saw It (3882880)  
4.35pm The Wild Show (5242135)  
5.00pm Newsround (2782203)  
5.10pm Blue Peter (8334945)  
5.35pm Neighbours (11713002)  
6.00pm Six O'Clock News (136030)  
6.30pm Regional News Magazine (48)



Jeremy Spake, the Aeroflot supervisor at Heathrow (7pm)

7.00am Airport Aeroflot supervisor Jeremy Spake receives a tempting offer, while Royal Suite manager Anita Newcourt faces a crisis (11) (18145)  
7.30am Dream House The loan struggle to get their 21st-century home ready for its new occupants (13)  
8.00am Changing Rooms A Bolton woman swaps houses with her mum for a spot of radical redecorating (1) (9703)  
8.30am Battersea Dogs' Home Staff at the famous kennels set about rehoming stray dogs (1) (380154)  
8.50am The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories The story of a man and his lucky cat which found its way home eight years after it was sold. Plus, live coverage of the mid-week draw (1) (259845)  
9.00pm One O'Clock News: Regional News Weather (1) (7864)  
9.25pm National Lottery Update (763999)  
9.30pm The X Files Mulder investigates an unsolved case of murders dating back to 1952 (1) (130330)  
10.15pm [CHOICE] Inside Story The former gateway driver Darren Nicholls describes what prompted him to turn supergrass (3/5) (155983)  
11.10pm Deadly Whispers (1994) Premier Psychological thriller about a devoted family man whose world falls apart when he is implicated in the murder of his daughter. Tony Danza and Pamela Reed star. Directed by Bill Clinton (1) (40319)  
12.40am Weather (7647568)  
12.45pm BBC News 24 (65079452)

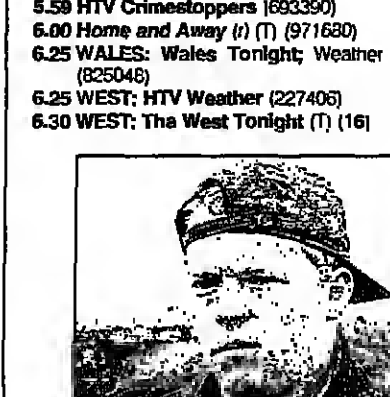
**BBC2**  
7.00am CBBC Breakfast Show: Tales of the Tooth Fairies (3508390) 7.05pm Teletubbies (6426932) 7.30pm Secret Squirrel and Co (6426932) 7.55pm The Really Wild Show (6260590) 8.25pm Poirot (6426932) 8.50pm The Muppet Show (7396551) 9.45pm The Tooth Fairies (3372512) 9.00pm Images (6338195) 9.10pm What? Where? When? Why? (5938339) 9.25pm The Art (1818048) 9.45pm News and Pictures (1263425) 10.00pm Teletubbies (24970) 10.30pm Numberline (2280319) 10.45pm Cats' Eyes (1278574) 11.00pm Around Scotland (8519965) 11.20pm The Geography Programme (8562951) 11.40pm Science in Action (8970135) 12.00pm News (655512) 12.15pm Hello Berlin (1748777) 12.30pm Working Lunch (45113) 1.00pm Brum (9453835)  
1.10pm The Travel Hour: Alaska (1) (928219)  
2.10pm Sporting Greats (1) (930748)  
2.40pm News Weather (1) (3600406)  
2.45pm Westminster (1) (2507932)  
3.55pm News Weather (1) (6541864)  
4.00pm Turning Points The moments of Bath in conversation (645241)  
4.05pm Birds with Tony Soper (3609357)  
4.25pm Daisies in December (1) (1348628)  
4.30pm The Vampire Slayer Xander has one of those days (1) (355999)  
7.30pm Tales from the Riverbank The lure of the carp to the angler (1) (7)  
8.00pm Battle of the Sexes How sexual hierarchies develop (1) (8135)  
8.30pm Home Front (1/12) (1) (4870)  
9.00pm Marsey Blues Murder Squad appear in an ID parade (1) (856425)  
9.50pm [CHOICE] Blood on the Carpet Insight into the controversial case of Joseph Jett (1) (800609)  
10.25pm Video Nation Shorts (1) (40319)  
10.30pm Newsnight (1) (740086)



The composer Pierre Boulez talks about his life and work (11.15pm)

11.15pm [CHOICE] Pierre Boulez: A Life in Seven Chapters The celebrated French composer-conductor in conversation (1) (868116)  
11.55pm Despatch Book (84487)  
12.30pm BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Sex and the Single Girl? 1.00pm The Art of Breathing 1.30pm Galapagos: Research in the Field 2.00pm Mathematics — Mathsphere Edits: Algebra 4.00pm Languages: The French Experience 5.00pm Voluntary Matters — Selling Yourself 5.30pm Steps to Better Management: Making the Most of Yourself 6.45pm Open University: Reinvented in the Arctic 6.10pm Why Me? 8.35pm Brief Encounter

**HTV**  
5.30pm ITN Morning News (117959)  
6.00pm GMTV (2012262)  
9.25pm Trisha (1) (5718067)  
10.30pm This Morning (1) (11815574)  
12.15pm HTV News (1) (7484203)  
12.30pm ITN Lunchtime News Weather (1) (3157)  
1.00pm Next Stop Richard Wyatt, Polly Lloyd and correspondents review local news and events live from Watford and Wilton in Somerset (61999)  
1.00pm WALES: Shortland Street Minnie makes a major mistake (61999)  
1.30pm Home and Away Tegan and Joey split up (1) (30638)  
2.00pm The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous US talk show (1) (5136408)  
2.45pm Dale's Supermarket Sweep (1) (400970)  
3.15pm ITN News Headlines (1) (930748)  
3.20pm HTV News (1) (6052311)  
3.25pm City: Moparts' Shop (3707244) 3.35pm Teddies (3428425) 3.45pm Jurnip (6389766) 4.10pm Whizzing (6534574) 4.40pm Mad for It (1257338)  
5.10pm A Country Practice Tom, Harry, Kate and Anna go camping (1974135)  
5.40pm Early Evening News Weather (1) (645241)  
5.50pm HTV Crime Stories (693390)  
6.00pm Home and Away (1) (971630)  
6.25pm WALES: Wales Tonight Weather (1) (825048)  
6.30pm HTV Weather (227406)  
6.35pm WEST: The West Tonight (1) (16)



Butch (Paul Loughran) learns the upsetting truth about Belle (7pm)

7.00pm Emmerdale Turner introduces the new bar manager and Butch Dingle discovers that Zak has been using Belle (1) (9241)  
7.30pm Coronation Street Natalie and Colin draw closer (1) (28)  
8.00pm Midsummer Murders The naked body of a young woman is found, strangled in a local woodland. Starring John Nettles, Daniel Casper, Phyllis Logan and Trude Styler (1) (8066)  
10.00pm News at Ten Weather (1) (74574)  
10.30pm HTV News and Weather (1) (862660)  
10.40pm The Big Match Highlights of tonight's FA Cup fourth-round replays (4739048)  
12.15pm Sex Identity (1991) Lenny Henry stars as a struggling actor who disguises himself as a white man to escape the clutches of the Mafia. Directed by Charles Lane (302742)  
1.55pm The Jerry Springer Show (1) (1971891)  
2.40pm Masterclass With saxophone maestro Chris 'Snake' Davis (1628452)  
3.05pm Trisha Show earlier (1) (1738075)  
4.10pm The Making of Very Bad Things Feature on the comedy thriller starring Cameron Diaz (4765055)  
4.40pm ITV Nightmares Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (83987636)  
5.00pm Coronation Street Show earlier (1) (1) (00278)

**CENTRAL**  
As HTV West except:  
12.20-12.30pm Central News Weather (1863135)  
1.00pm Echo Point (61999)  
1.30pm The Jerry Springer Show (1967796)  
2.15-2.45pm Home and Away (118999)  
3.20-3.25pm Central News (6023311)  
5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (9574135)  
6.25-7.00pm Central News Weather (625048)  
7.10-7.40pm Central News Weather (625048)  
7.45-8.00pm Central News Weather (625048)  
8.00-8.30pm Asian Eye (7826526)  
**WESTCOUNTRY**  
As HTV West except:  
12.15-12.27pm Westcountry News Weather (7484203)  
12.27-12.30pm Illuminations (8891154)  
1.00pm Emmerdale (61999)  
1.30pm The Jerry Springer Show (1967796)  
2.15-2.45pm Home and Away (118999)  
3.20-3.25pm Westcountry News Weather (6023311)  
5.08pm Birthday People (569661)  
5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (9574135)  
6.00-7.00pm Westcountry Live (118948)  
10.30-10.40pm Westcountry News Weather (863680)



Dr Greene (Anthony Edwards) shows Lucy (Kellie Martin) the ropes (9pm)

As HTV West except: 12.15pm Anglia Air Watch (8895970) 12.20-12.30pm Anglia News and Weather (8895970) 1.00-1.35pm Shortland Street (9574135) 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (1) (9574135) 5.50pm Anglia Weather (1) (633380) 6.00pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 6.10pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 6.20pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 6.30pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 6.40pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 6.50pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 7.00pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 7.10pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 7.20pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 7.30pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 7.40pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 7.50pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 8.00pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 8.10pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 8.20pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 8.30pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 8.40pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 8.50pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 9.00pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 9.10pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 9.20pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 9.30pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 9.40pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 9.50pm Anglia News (1) (633380) 10.00pm Anglia 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## MOTOR RALLYING 37

McRae lets rip at incompetence of Ford team

# SPORT

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 1999

## CRICKET 37

Taylor calls time on illustrious Test match career



Hoddle's departure leaves FA technical director in temporary charge of England

# Wilkinson picks up the pieces

By ROB HUGHES, CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

IN THE modern world of football, covering 203 nations, there must be a managerial departure a day. But never could there have been one so strange, or in the end so tinged with decency, as the removal of Glenn Hoddle after his words that caused such offence to the disabled. May the karma and the football man never be linked again.

You may rest assured that, for as long or as short as he is given, Howard Wilkinson will not bring a faith healer, a spiritualist or anyone so remotely unexpected into the England camp. "I feel like a potato in a microwave, being well and truly cooked from all angles, getting hotter and hotter," Wilkinson said seven years ago, when he was the manager of Leeds United and the chairman of the League Managers' Association.

He spoke of dealing in the heat of the spotlight with players, supporters, referees, directors... and the media. But this outwardly dour Yorkshireman, as tough as grit and yet sensitive to criticism and to the thoughts of others, will not stray into such a monumental error that has just vacated the post to him.

He may have only the match against France at Wembley a week today to make his mark; he may not want more, he may not be granted more. It must be assumed that Wilkinson, the Football Association's technical director, is now the third "acting" official in high capacity at Lancaster Gate.

Not that the incumbents are in a position to be mocked this morning. Their situation would have taxed the wisdom of Job, given the stubbornness with which Hoddle defended — and at first denied — the statement that ultimately led to his downfall.

However, when David Davies, the acting chief executive of the FA, paused last night to say that the hurt felt by Hoddle and his employers was "as nothing to any offence felt by the disabled people in our country", let no one say that

the "new" FA misconstrued the depth of feeling throughout the country, from Parliament down.

Football thus has a chance to repair the damage, to move closer to the people it serves, and the action starts in the capable — the cliché says safe — hands of Wilkinson.

We may find, as the microphones are thrust before him, that the bewilderment that lingers from Eric Cantona's "seagulls following the trawler" conundrum are crystal clear compared with the philosophical maze that Wilkinson, on his day, can construct. It may not even be heard in English. "Nil illegetimi carborundum" was Wilkinson's compassionate telephoned message to John Beck when he was struggling as manager of Cambridge United. Beck is not the scholar that Wilkinson, 55,

made himself, and so he had to explain: "Don't let the bastards grind you down."

His education came through force of will, through attending Sheffield University to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree while being player-manager of Boston United — all this

because, in his own estimation, he was "a bricklayer's labourer" of a player when he led the attack for, briefly, Sheffield Wednesday and then Brighton and Hove Albion. He used his education to teach at a grammar school for two years and then, having reached the status of FA regional coach by 1980, joined Notts County, where Jimmy Sirrel, the carnival of Scottish managers, predicted that his young assistant would one day coach England.

Wilkinson's great triumph, his meticulous and dogged period in charge of Leeds United, was the making of his managerial name. He followed Brian Clough, Jimmy Armfield, Jock Stein, Allan Clarke, Eddie Gray and Billy Bremner through the revolving door at Elland Road and, in tandem with Leslie Silver, the chairman, achieved what all of



Better times: Wilkinson, left, who takes over the England team from Hoddle for the game with France, on being appointed FA technical director

them could not. He hauled Leeds from the brink of the old third division to the championship of England, he restored the club's fortunes, he bolted it onto the community and he built a youth production line that David O'Leary is now benefiting from.

After he was dismissed by a new board he reluctantly took the job of challenging the biggest divide in English football, of breaking the mistrust that had grown between the FA under his dogmatic predecessor, Charles Hughes, and the schools. That job, despite Wilkinson's pioneering schools of excellence programme, is anything but complete. Three decades of poor dogma, of lamentable attempts to consign the whole of

English football to the long-ball game, will not be erased overnight. Some say that Wilkinson is himself a disciple of the long-ball game. He resents that as an insult to his intelligence, and he is an educated man.

This, indeed, might be the difference between Hoddle and Wilkinson. Hoddle went to school, but never had to doubt that he would be a player, and a great one at that. He never doubted his superiority, or that, in the footballing sense, he was from a different planet to the English.

Wilkinson has been down where average players have to work, to persevere to make the slightest impression. Yet, though he is patently given to mixing the four-letter word

with the scholastic, he chafed the media on his first day as the manager of Leeds in 1988 with this homily: "Anyone can intellectualise about what is aesthetically acceptable football. If I had the world's best XI, I'd tell them to

go out, play, win 2-0... and do it nicely." Because he is the thinking man's artisan, because he relishes his grasp of French and northern English, because Howard Wilkinson never assumed that things happened

by accident, he will have been preparing — from the moment that *The Times* landed on his doormat last Saturday morning — how he might plot the downfall of France at Wembley should the challenge be offered him. It now has been, and the Yorkshire seagull has the trawler in its sights.

What may come as a blessed relief is that Wilkinson, minor's son to football manager of the moment, has no false illusions about who, or what, he is. "We are football managers, nothing else," he has said. "We are not clergymen, not nursemaids, not policemen or social workers. We look after players, and some managers in England once recognised that an increase in physical input to a game could compensate

for technical deficiencies. I was once one of them."

William Hill make Wilkinson 6-5 favourite to succeed Hoddle permanently. Other odds include: 4-1 Kevin Keegan and David Platt, 6-1 Terry Venables, 8-1 Bryan Robson, 12-1 Gerard Houllier, John Gregory and Arsene Wenger, 16-1 Roy Hodgson, 25-1 George Graham, Ruud Gullit, Bobby Robson and Alex Ferguson.

## Remarks made position untenable

IN THE end, there was no shock or surprise. Football had braced itself for the departure of Glenn Hoddle from the moment that the England coach's words appeared in *The Times*.

Even his closest colleagues in football had no sympathy for a man whom they regarded highly as both player and coach.

Terry Neill, who gave Hoddle his debut with Tottenham Hotspur, put it simply: "He screwed up. As a person, he comes across as a crank."

"I always found Glenn a nice individual, though I didn't always agree with his views on life. It is probably — for Glenn and for English football — the right decision."

Graham Kelly, the former chief executive of the Football Association, summed up the

### REACTION

reason Hoddle fell from grace: "I am very sad that a few incautious words forced him to leave his job. I feel for the people who have been upset by this. The disabled were let down by what Glenn allegedly said."

"But I am also sad that Glenn Hoddle has had to leave his job. He didn't feel that he had done anything wrong, but clearly the FA decided this was the best way to go."

David Mellor, the chairman of the Football Task Force and one of Hoddle's biggest critics, said that "English football was being dragged down by Glenn Hoddle's bizarre beliefs".

"I take no pleasure in the demise of Glenn Hoddle, but I do not think he gave the FA any choice. His personal beliefs have become inextricably linked with his job."

For Gordon Taylor, the chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association, the players' union, the question of Hoddle's departure from the England job was not a matter for debate — only the timing was at issue. He said: "I would have been surprised if he had still been in the job."

KEVIN EASON

## FA offers farce and intrigue in build-up on judgment day

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, was dismissed by the Football Association last night — only the second manager of the national team to lose his job in such a manner. After a day of meetings, and discussions and negotiations between FA officials and Hoddle and his advisers, the termination of his contract was announced by David Davies, an executive director of the FA, at 6.55pm.

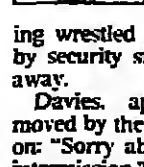
Davies read from a statement and would not take questions. He said: "After more than 24 hours of meetings and discussions, it has become apparent to all concerned that this was the right decision for England. The FA and Glenn Hoddle have agreed to terminate Glenn's contract. The position had become untenable."

"He accepts that he made an error of judgment and he has apologised. It has been painful for everyone over the past few days but that is nothing compared to the offence caused to disabled people. We accept that this wasn't Glenn's intent."

At that moment, Davies was interrupted by a fan wearing a Liverpool away shirt, who had sneaked into the room. "We want Hoddle out," he shouted, before being



Russell Kempson on how the troubled career of the national coach was ended



ing wrestled to the ground by security staff and taken away. Davies, apparently unmoved by the incident, went on: "Sorry about that short interruption." He added: "Glenn has served the team with dedication and loyalty but eventually all parties agreed that this was the best way forward."

It had been a day of intrigue, at times almost farcical, as the media representatives buried between No 16 Lancaster Gate, the FA headquarters, and the nearby Park Court Hotel. The FA's fair-play flag fluttered from the FA building in the breeze as fair play, at some discreet location, was decided.

At 1.50pm Hoddle had been spotted leaving the offices of his agent, Dennis Roach, near Hammersmith, and the crowd of photographers, television cameramen and reporters flocked to

wards the door of No 16. "Mr Hoddle will not be coming here," an FA minion said, laughing at the disappointment on the faces of the throng.

The journalists at the Park Court, hoping to catch a word from or at least a glimpse of members of the FA sub-committee that would decide Hoddle's fate, were not amused, either.

Representatives of the sub-committee — comprising Noel Whittle, a director of Liverpool and the chairman of the FA's international committee, David Dein, vice-chairman of Arsenal, Geoff Thompson, the acting FA chairman, Dave Richards, the Sheffield Wednesday chairman, and Davies — were believed to have met Hoddle on Monday night. Their brief was to ask him for his explanation of why he said that disabled people

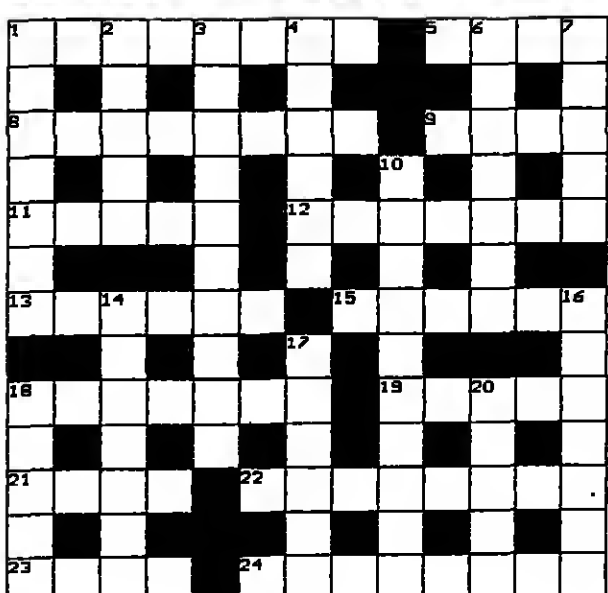
were being punished for misdemeanours in a past life. They listened to his answers and then reported to the international committee yesterday. It was the sub-committee that had met after the World Cup finals, to agree with Hoddle a pay rise of £100,000 to £350,000-a-year.

Once the committee had digested Hoddle's words it is believed to have met again yesterday morning. It then reported to the international committee, which acted on its recommendations. The size of Hoddle's compensation for the remaining 1½ years on his contract — understood to be in the region of £500,000 — would also have been discussed.

Davies finally arrived shortly before 7pm, looking tense. It was he who ghosted Hoddle's book — *Glenn Hoddle: My 1998 World Cup Story* — and it was he who had to make the final pronouncement. "Howard Wilkinson will take charge for the game against France on February 10," he concluded.

So ended a momentous day in the history of the Football Association. In little more than six weeks, it had lost Keith Wiseman, its chairman, Kelly, its chief executive and Hoddle, its national team manager.

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1631

### ACROSS

- 1 Uttering (reaction) (4-4)
- 5 Comb (wool): ticket (4)
- 8 Indefatigable (8)
- 9 Caesar's France (4)
- 11 — Flashman: pester, ravage (5)
- 12 Clothes for washing (7)
- 13 Constricted (6)
- 15 Edible bit of nut (6)
- 16 Blockade (town) (7)
- 19 Rustle lover (5)
- 21 Eloquent: deceptive (4)
- 22 Undervaluing (5)
- 23 Outhouse: drop (4)
- 24 Sensible caution (8)

### DOWN

- 1 Food preparation area (7)
- 2 Mistake (5)
- 3 Pirate's flag (5,5)
- 4 (Good) outcome (6)
- 6 Forsake (7)
- 7 Hold up (5)
- 10 NE Aussie state (10)
- 14 Fidgety, ill at ease (7)
- 16 Crescent-shaped recess (5)
- 17 Done light (7)
- 18 One putting up game (6)
- 19 Counterfeit (5)
- 20 An inert gas, element no. 18 (5)

### SOLUTION TO NO 1630

- ACROSS: 1 Beside 4 Feud 9 Piano 10 Hearsay 11 Driller  
12 Toxin 13 White-collar 17 Haver 19 Aladdin  
22 Whiting 23 Samba 24 Ruse 25 Keynes  
DOWN: 1 Biped 2 Slavish 3 Drool 5 Essex 6 Drying  
7 Short-change 8 Pastel 14 Turgid 15 Abdomen 16 Shower  
18 Veins 20 Aisle 21 Nears

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